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AGENDA

By AVINOHAN DAN-ROSE

Netanyahu, Weizman, and the Super Bowl

At a special session of the Knesset to be held on May 18, President Ezer Weizman will be sworn in for a second term. Traditionally the prime minister never misses this ceremony, and it is attended by all the cabinet ministers, the president of the Supreme Court, the chief of general staff, and the diplomatic corps. This year it appears that the prime minister will be absent.

AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobby, will be holding its annual convention in Washington on the same date. The AIPAC convention is the most important Jewish show of strength held annually in the American capital.

See AGENDA, Page 6

Ministers consider yielding more than 9% to PA

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The prospect of an IDF withdrawal from more than 9 percent of the West Bank's Area C, but slightly less than the 13% advocated by the U.S., appeared plausible yesterday as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his policymaking inner cabinet sought a way out of the negotiations deadlock.

A government source said that Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky were considering an American "bridging proposal" dubbed C-Minus.

In addition to 9% of Area C, the West Bank area under complete Israeli control, the Palestinian Authority would be granted civil jurisdiction over up to 3% more territory.

The idea is expected to be aired

Hamas calls for attacks on Jews, Page 2

again at today's inner cabinet session. Netanyahu's legal adviser Yitzhak Molcho elaborated on the thrust of government thinking at a meeting in London yesterday with US envoy Dennis Ross. It was not clear whether Sharon would go along with the American suggestion.

The American intermediaries - Ross and his State Department colleagues - are understood to have proposed that the PA gain administrative control over the additional 2% or 3% of Area C without being allowed to deploy police or security personnel there.

Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Uzi Arad told Army Radio that "the process is moving forward and more progress is expected." He said Molcho would ask Ross to "clarify" several points.

See PA, Page 2



Triumph in court

Coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheerit celebrates after being acquitted of fraud charges yesterday in Jerusalem District Court. (Story, Page 4)

(Arie Jerolimski)

UK's Mowlam upbeat on N. Irish peace chances

By ELAINE MONAGHAN

BELFAST (Reuters) - Britain yesterday pledged to bridge the gaps between Northern Ireland's rival Protestant and Catholic parties in a race against time to clinch an elusive peace deal.

Northern Ireland Minister Mo Mowlam reported fresh progress in troubled all-party talks and said she is confident of a deal before a deadline expires at the end of today.

"It's important to note that progress is being made across all fronts," Mowlam told a crowded news conference.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has joined the talks in Belfast in a bid to save the 21-month peace process, after the main pro-British Protestant party rejected a peace blueprint on Tuesday.

Mowlam said the talks had gathered a "fair bit of momentum... They are beginning to build to the deadline that has been set." She

said no one should underestimate the parties' determination to reach a settlement.

The murder overnight by Roman Catholic republican

George Mitchell's biggest challenge, Page 6

extremists of a suspected Protestant gunman had increased everyone's determination that no other family would go through what the latest victim's family had suffered, she said.

"We have had 30 years of murder. I think what we need to do in the next 24 hours is show determination among all participants to make sure that we see no more."

We will do that by closing the final gaps that still exist between the parties," Mowlam said.

Britain and Ireland are co-sponsoring the peace talks, seen as offering the best chance in a generation to end decades of conflict between majority Protestants and minority Catholics in which more than 3,200 people have been killed.

The last-ditch drive for peace gained greater urgency after Northern Ireland's main Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, on Tuesday rejected a draft proposal put forward by the talks chairman, former US senator George Mitchell.

In a statement, the Ulster Unionists said the Irish government must move from its "pro-republican position" to allow a lasting settlement to be achieved.

A British government spokesman said Blair met all the parties to try to iron out differences and that he remains "stubbornly optimistic" about reaching a deal on time.

"There's a real sense in there that people have come this far and they can't go back," he said.

MKs blast direct payment for health services plan

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday prematurely halted its discussion of the Finance and Health ministries' plans for levying direct payments for health services in addition to existing health taxes.

The discussion was suspended indefinitely after much criticism from coalition and opposition members alike, especially against the Finance Ministry, and its deputy director-general for health matters, Haim Pelts, who initiated the plan.

Health Ministry officials suggested that given the tone of yesterday's meeting, it is unlikely that the proposal would be passed in its present form.

According to the proposal, a family of five would pay up to NIS 55 a month in extra fees to their

health funds and up to NIS 160 per quarter for visiting specialists and hospital outpatient clinics. Adults would pay NIS 20 each a month, and a child NIS 5. There would be no extra charge for the fourth child and up, and those in the lowest socioeconomic groups would be exempt from payment.

There would also be a NIS 20 fee over three months for a visit to each health fund doctor who is not one's primary physician, and NIS 20 for a visit to a hospital outpatient clinic. But the ceiling for this will be NIS 140 to NIS 160 for each three-month period.

The cost to consumers of prescription drugs subsidized by the health funds would increase by 30 percent, but a ceiling would be set on charges for those designated as "chronically ill."

All residents already pay 4.8% of their monthly gross income in health taxes, and many opt for supplementary health insurance, plus extra for dental care, medications, and nursing care (if they need it). But due to the NIS 1.4 billion operational deficit of the national health insurance system, the government is demanding that direct fees be paid as well.

Health Minister Yehoshua Ma'atza told the committee that he had preferred raising health taxes progressively from 4.8% to 5.5%, but that the government insisted it would "not raise taxes." Ma'atza said that the committee could pass or reject the proposal, but if it is not passed, and a health tax hike is impossible, Kupat Holim Chai is liable to collapse.

See HEALTH, Page 2

Documents obtained by 'Jerusalem Post' show:

Iran has four nuclear bombs

By STEVE RODAN

Iran received several nuclear warheads from a former Soviet republic in the early 1990s and Russian experts maintained them, according to Iranian government documents relayed to Israel and obtained by The Jerusalem Post.

The documents, deemed authentic by US congressional experts and still being studied in Israel, contain correspondence between Iranian government officials and leaders of the Revolutionary Guards that discusses Iran's successful efforts to obtain nuclear warheads from former Soviet republics.

"At this point, we can't say for certain whether these are genuine," a senior Israeli source said. "But they look awfully real."

A US government consultant said he is certain of the authenticity of the documents. "They are real and we have had them for years," he said.

The documents appear to bolster reports from 1992 that Iran received enriched uranium and up to four nuclear warheads from Kazakhstan, with help from the Russian underworld.

A detailed account of the Iranian effort, released on January 20, 1992, by the US Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare of the House Republican Research Committee, asserted that by the end of 1991 there was a "98 percent certainty that Iran already had all (or virtually all) of the components required for two to three

operational nuclear weapons [aerial bombs and SSM warheads] made with parts purchased in the ex-Soviet Moslem republics."

"I didn't give these reports credibility at the time," said Shai Feldman, director of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. "It seemed like the kind of information that the Iranian opposition put out. There were specific queries made and everybody said there was no evidence of a warhead transfer."

But congressional sources and Israeli officials said Congress has been alarmed by the continuing reports of Russian aid to Iran's nuclear and nonconventional program. The sources said that they are drafting legislation to stop the effort.

In one Iranian document obtained by the Post, dated December 26, 1991, the deputy head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards tells Atomic Energy Agency head Rezi Amrollahi that "two war material of nuclear nature" had arrived from Russia and were being held by the guards.

At the bottom of the document is a handwritten rebuke from a senior Iranian intelligence officer asking both officials not to write and send such documents to avoid leaks.

In another document, dated January 2, 1992, a senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards official quotes an engineer identified as Turkan as saying that the nuclear warheads are being stored in the Lavizan military camp in the Teheran area. The engineer says

that the warheads contain flaws in the safety mechanism and he is waiting for Russian experts to arrive and repair them.

An April 3, 1992, document discusses the production of a solid fuel missile prototype, called Zalzal 300, completed in Lavizan which was soon to be ready for launch. US congressional experts said the Zalzal is a modification of the Chinese M-11 missile.

The US government consultant said the Iranian government correspondence relayed to Israel is only a small portion of the hundreds of documents about the Iranian effort to obtain nuclear materials, including four nuclear warheads for the North Korean-developed No-Dong missile.

The documents were obtained as US envoy Robert Gallucci held talks here with government and intelligence agency leaders on Russian aid to Iran's ballistic missile program.

"The government acts on priorities and at the top is the Iranian missile program," an Israeli official said.

Israeli officials said that both Jerusalem and Washington agree on the amount of progress achieved by Iran in developing a missile with a range of 1,300 kilometers, which is able to reach Israel. The disagreement is about whether Russia supports the technology transfer to Iran and whether Moscow is capable of stopping the flow.

See IRAN, Page 2



In with the new

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drinks a toast with outgoing Mossad chief Danny Yatom (left) and his successor, Ephraim Halevy, at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday. Among those present was outgoing OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Ansham Levine, who has been appointed Halevy's deputy. (Ari Ohayon/GPO)

Health Ministry to pull Tnuva ads about LGG

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry intends to halt Tnuva's major advertising campaign, which claims that a "probiotic" bacteria called LGG "strengthens the body's immune system, makes calcium absorption more efficient, improves functioning and balance of the digestive system, and makes one generally feel better."

Dr. Brian Cousin, head of the ministry's Food Service Division, has prepared a letter that will soon be dispatched to Tnuva management, saying that the ad campaign violates the law barring food companies from claiming that their products are medically therapeutic.

The company can continue to include the bacteria in its yogurt,

soft white cheese, buttermilk (Rivon), and other products, but it can't be advertised as having therapeutic uses; only a registered drug can do that," he declared.

"The usual procedure is to meet with them and halt the campaign within two or three weeks. We have stopped such claims by other companies before - such as the baby formula manufacturers [who implied their product improves IQ] - and we will do it again."

Tnuva announced the inclusion of LGG at a recent press conference and has since produced many ads for TV, radio, and newspapers about its "therapeutic benefits," which were researched by two US scientists, Prof. Goldin and Prof. Gorbach. The bacteria's name

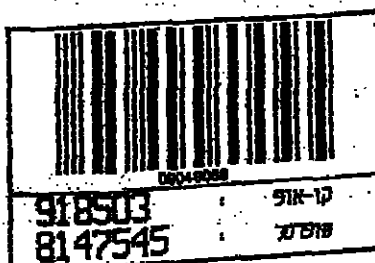
comes from their initials and the first letter of lactobacillus, which is a family of "friendly" bacteria found in milk cultures.

The ads also say that in a short time, LGG will be available in many other Tnuva dairy products, including milk.

Asked to comment, Tnuva spokeswoman Orli Lerner said the company had heard no protest from the ministry so far.

"If we get a letter, we will hear them out, and will want to voice our position," Lerner said, adding that the company's lawyers had examined the issue and concluded that the advertising is "permissible."

LGG is used as an additive in milk products in 26 countries around the world, she said.



Hanegbi, Sarid clash in special recess session

By LIAT COLLINS

A bitter exchange between Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Meretz leader Yossi Sarid marked yesterday's special recess Knesset session called to discuss the freeze in the peace process (Labor and Meretz), the opposition's support of the Palestinians (Likud), and the need to abide by the principle of reciprocity (National Religious Party).

"We won't carry out any clause

unless we see the Palestinian side abiding by all its commitments," Hanegbi promised.

He ridiculed Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, who was not present, for not being able to take off and being "perceived as a charlatan." He told the opposition that throughout the debate, it had not identified its what their red line.

The letter by Peace Now to foreign leaders saying Israel is responsible for the stalemate naturally came up in the debate

despite not being on the agenda. Hanegbi called it "a black day for the Left" and accused the opposition of being in such a state of collapse it prefers to go to Washington than to development towns.

Sarid called for "strong and balanced US involvement to prevent another bloodbath in the region."

He also said that "if Camp David is US pressure, I'm for this pressure." He called on US senators and some AIPAC leaders to "be

careful with your initiatives. Not every one of Netanyahu's caprices is really in Israel's interest."

Sarid drew the greatest amount of heckling when he charged that Interior Minister Eli Suissa (Shas) "undoubtedly has the soul of Kahane" and described the settlers as "a fascist element."

In his response on behalf of the government, Hanegbi described Sarid as "small, venomous, and wicked," causing Sarid to respond: "You're a criminal."

When Sarid later walked out, Hanegbi accused him of "running away as usual," to which Sarid replied: "After the police investigation into you is over, we'll speak."

Ruby Rivlin presenting the Likud motion said that "the opposition has become such an enthusiastic supporter of the Palestinians that we need to negotiate peace with them."

Dalia Itzik, on Labor's behalf, said that "the prime minister gets up every morning and says,

"Today I must practice the verb to deceive..."

The demolition of Beduin homes in the North and the subsequent police handling of the riots was raised from the floor by Salah Salim (Hadash) and in the ensuing exchange both he and Azmi Bashara Salim accused the police of the deliberate use of force. When deputy speaker Haim Dayan (Tsomet) tried to stop his speech, Salim shouted at him: "You're a fascist."

The session ended with Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) calling for a change in the House Rules to oblige MKs who call for a special meeting to attend it. Although 30 MKs signed each of the motions by Labor and Likud for a special recess session, there were only 42 MKs in the House, half that number in the plenum for the debate, and only 15 by the vote. Fourteen MKs asked the motions be raised again later in the plenum for fuller debate.

Local peace groups appeal to Clinton, Blair for help

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Local peace movements called on US and European leaders to increase their involvement in advancing the peace process, declaring, "Living in constant warfare with our neighbors is not true safety, and oppressing another people is not true freedom."

Nine peace groups yesterday signed a letter to US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair appealing to them to take a more active role.

The letter generated a spate of criticism: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the groups' actions "shameful."

"The spectacle of going to a foreign element so that it pressures Israel is a shameful one," he said, adding Israel wants to make progress towards peace and it is unnecessary to pressure it.

Settler leaders expressed outrage, declaring that it was unheard of and inconceivable to ask a foreign government to determine Israel's future and security.

"The US Congress and Jewish lobby turned to [the US president while] here we have Israeli organizations calling for external pressure on an Israeli government," Yehudit

Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, said.

The groups that signed the letters include Peace Now, Bat Shalom, Rabbis for Human Rights, Gush Shalom, Physicians for Human Rights, and Social Workers for Peace and Social Welfare.

Dor Shalom did not sign the letter to Clinton, because it objected to its tone and contents, Dor Shalom spokeswoman Jodi Joseph said. However, Dor Shalom did sign the copy of the letter sent to Blair.

Peace Now secretary-general Moshe Raz defended his movement's actions, declaring it had a right to send the letters to Clinton and Blair.

"Mediators constantly come and go to assist us in moving the process forward and instead [of their actions being appreciated], they are attacked, demonstrated against, and not given meals," he said. "Netanyahu signed the Hebron Accord and we demand he implement the agreements he committed himself to."

The text of the letter declared that the current deadlock resulted from the policies of Netanyahu's government, "which prefers colonization

of the occupied territories to advancement of the peace process."

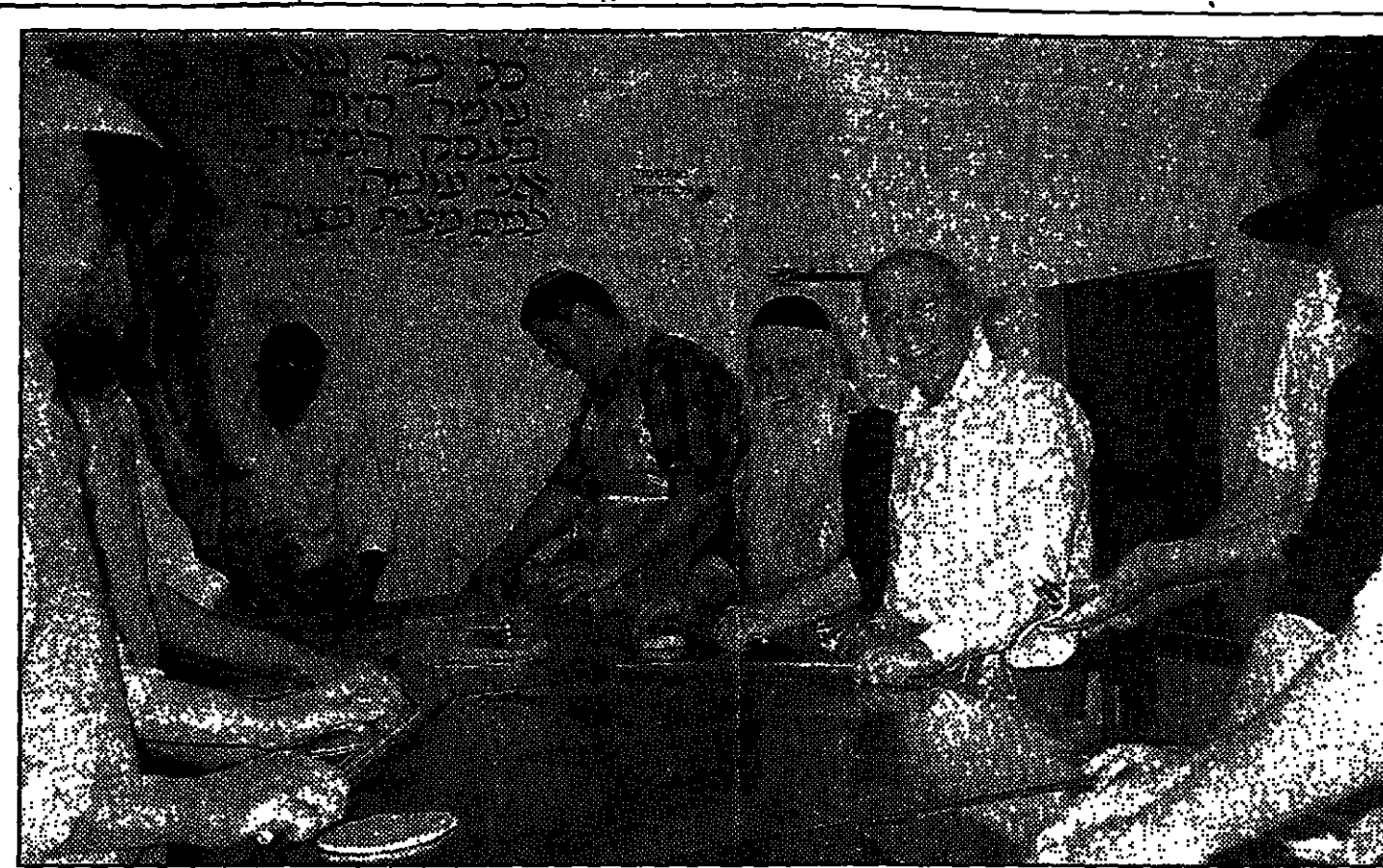
Raz said that while Netanyahu is the legitimate prime minister, the majority of the Israeli public is seeking an honorable solution that will allow Israelis and Palestinians to live side by side peacefully.

Declaring that Israel has constantly ignored UN resolutions opposing Jewish settlement of occupied lands and seeking to safeguard Palestinian rights, the letter stated that Israel cannot be expected to serve as protector of the rights of Palestinians.

"Only firm action by the European Union, the US, and the UN can lead to a just solution," the letter said.

Copies of the letter also were sent to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, US envoy Dennis Ross, and US Undersecretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk.

"Twenty years ago our movement held its first demonstration calling for peace between Israel and Egypt and today we call on the government and demand the same thing, this time with the Palestinians," Raz said.



Preparing for Pessah

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman joins haredim baking matzot at a bakery in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim quarter on Tuesday.

US Jews offer mixed reactions to Clinton peace idea

By JEFFREY M. HERSH

NEW YORK — The American Jewish community and its leaders yesterday sent letters to President Bill Clinton not so publicize an American peace proposal.

The conference decision on Tuesday appeared to be an endorsement of the letter sponsored by Senators Joe Lieberman, a Democrat from Connecticut, and Florida Republican Connie Mack. It also seemed to be at odds somewhat with a decision taken last Thursday, in a feisty session, to send a letter of thanks to Clinton for the administration's role in bringing the parties together, and urging a continuation of these efforts.

The letter to Clinton, being drafted yesterday, was to make no reference to American pressure, and none to the Lieberman-Mack letter, sources said.

The conference's letters are now part of a barrage of doleful missives sent to the White House and circulating in Congress, which seem to reflect competing sentiments of the American Jewish community.

Last week, members of the conference were unhappy with the "hostile" tone of the Lieberman-Mack letter and angry with AIPAC for lobbying for signatories.

"I don't believe the letter reflects the mood of the community, which is supportive of the administration," said Seymour Reich, a former chairman of the conference. "That letter has negative tones toward the role that the administration is playing."

At that meeting, however, the conference leadership was said to be unwilling to make any public

statement. "The community and its leaders should not be taken in by the media and should not be taken in by the media," said Reich.

Another letter written by Senator Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, was addressed to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, praising her and urging her to continue her efforts in private and without public pressure.

The Levin letter was signed Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle and Joseph Biden.

Malcolm Hoelzel, executive director of the conference, declined yesterday to specify what the contents of the Senate letter would be, beyond expressing "appreciation for commitment and concern for Israel."

No letter of thanks was planned for senators who signed the Levin letter, or House members who signed yet a third letter. This appeared to be an implicit endorsement of the Lieberman-Mack letter.

"We didn't discuss any other letters," Hoelzel said yesterday. He did not rule out other letters of thanks. "We didn't get to the House side, because we understood it wasn't completed yet. The Senate side was finished, so we dealt with that. This is not discriminatory."

That sentiment, however, was challenged by a source on the Left. "If this were just a letter of thanks, one should go to the Levin signers too," the source said. "They are equally concerned with Israel's welfare."

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, the head of the Reform movement, also sent a letter to Clinton, distancing the movement from the Lieberman-Mack letter.

Shredding the rule book

The manner in which the Israeli opposition related to foreign leadership — particularly the United States — was once a delicate diplomatic dance with strict rules of behavior. The first and most important rule: never publicly undermine the policies of the elected government of a democratic state.

But gradually, over recent years, political groups on both the Right and the Left — which deeply believe the elected government is heading in the wrong direction and which are frustrated with their inability to change the course of events domestically — have become emboldened in their attempts to harness American power to their cause.

That boldness climaxed this week with a strongly worded letter sent by an array of peace organizations to President Bill Clinton and other world leaders supporting outside pressure on the government in the peace process.

David Clayman, Israel director of the American Jewish Congress (AJC), says that while he politically identifies with the frustration on the part of the peace groups that drove them to write the letter, "I'm quite appalled by what they have done. There were already some important

ground rules that were broken and this shatters them even further."

The first crack in the wall of unity involved Clayman's own organization. In 1987, the AJC

published a statement calling for Israel to accept the principle of territories for peace, conflicting with the views of the Likud led part of the national unity government. "This first opened the door to American Jews being publicly critical of the Israeli government," Clayman recalls.

With this taboo destroyed, Israeli opposition groups began to express themselves through sympathetic ears in "sister organizations" abroad — the formation of American Friends of Peace Now was a notable development.

However, the idea of Israelis themselves lobbying against their own government's wishes was still taboo. Controversy was stirred in 1991 when a group of Labor and left-wing MKs invited by American Friends of Peace Now visited Washington and met with US government representatives.

At the time, MK Yossi Beilin

described the purpose of the trip as sending the message to the Americans that "the opposition will support Prime Minister Shamir in [the idea of territories for peace], even if certain partners of his coalition threaten to bolt and withdraw their support. Shamir, therefore, cannot

use the threats of the right wing as an excuse for refusing to take part in the peace process." The shoe was on the other foot after Yitzhak Rabin was elected prime minister and pursued the peace process. This time, it was the right wing that was accused of undermining the elected government, when former Shamir officials Yossi Ben-Aharon, Yoram Eltinger, and Yigal Carmon took to Capitol Hill lobbying against the use of US troops in the Golan under the terms of a settlement, and putting strict conditions on any US assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

Ben-Aharon, calling the letter by the peace groups a "stab in the back," protests that his mission was "vastly different... The difference between what they did, and what we did, is that we never approached the executive branch.

We lobbied like so many organizations and movements that lobby for various purposes, and we specifically refrained from attacking the government."

But sources in the pro-Israel American Jewish community disagree, saying that right-wing lobbying was just as damaging to the stature of the Labor government at the time as this week's letter is to the Likud government. Clayman predicts that American Jews across the political spectrum will not be pleased by the letter, and will view it as being "inappropriate, if not subversive."

"American Jewish leaders will be appalled, by and large," he said. "Remember, while over 80 percent of American Jews support the peace process, an equally overwhelming majority do not support American pressure on Israel. I think it really would have been entirely different and far more acceptable if the letter from the peace camp had been addressed to the American Jewish community — that they should exert their influence on the administration."

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HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Currency liberalization

The shekel's depreciation and the recent fluctuations amid reports about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plans to liberalize currency rules by Independence Day, is good news any way you look at it, writes Ha'aretz's Nehemya Strassler.

He rejects industrialists' protests against liberalization, saying that they do not like the idea that every citizen should be able to enjoy the fruits of liberalization that have been reserved for them until now. "Liberalization is good for the economy, good for the citizens and good for investments," Strassler writes.

Yediot Aharonot's Sever Plotzker claims that the government, the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Israel have created unnecessary panic, adding that liberalization has been going on for more than five years. "There is no reason to fear the steep devaluation of the shekel," he writes. "There are many reasons to think that as a result of the additional liberalization, the flow of foreign currency into Israel will increase and the shekel will strengthen."

Ma'ariv's Moshe Perl states that the economic leadership fears that the latest upheavals can lead to a financial crisis like the one that erupted in southeast Asia a few months ago. Perl adds that the

only conclusion to be drawn from the affair is that there are disagreements between Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who wants to carry out the liberalization slowly and moderately and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, who wants to go all the way.

"The one who will make the decision is Netanyahu... the decision will not only entail the pace of liberalization, it will dictate a whole new definition of economic leadership in Jerusalem."

The Palestinian version

The Palestinian security apparatus' announcement that bombmaker Muhi Sharif was killed by Hamas army commander Adal Awdallah and six other Hamas members as part of an internal power struggle, "was meant to clear the Palestinian Authority of any suspicion, score a few points with Netanyahu, the US and Europe and also an attempt to cause internal conflict within Hamas," writes Yediot's Roni Shaked.

The claim that Sharif was killed by fellow Hamas partners sounds imaginary, states Ma'ariv's Oded Granot who adds that until now there has been no information indicating the existence of any internal violence in Hamas.

Ha'aretz's Amira Hass says that the organization expels members who fail to uphold its ideology,

but agrees that murder was never an option. She adds that if the reports are true, they contradict "the testimonies about the strengthening of Hamas' civil activities and its growing confidence in the last year."

Both Yoel Marcus of Ha'aretz and Uri Avneri in Ma'ariv address Israel's denial of involvement in Sharif's death. Avneri claims that Israel has lost its credibility. Marcus says that the more Israel denies involvement, the more Hamas threatens terrorist attacks. "Why? Because being apologetic reflects fear. Fear of attacks."

Biladi, Biladi

Last week's controversial episode of the Channel 1 series *Tkuma*, which dealt with Palestinian terrorism, stirred debate throughout the press.

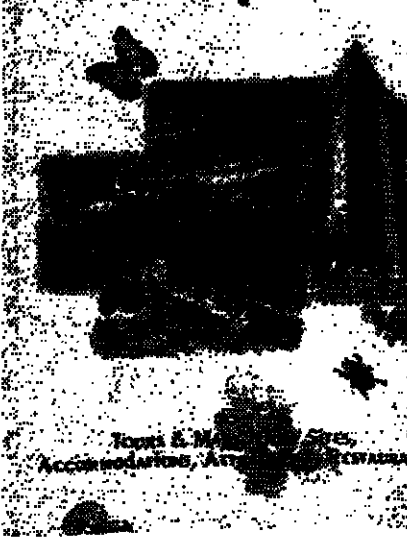
Writing in Ma'ariv former Tebiya leader Geula Cohen claims that the episode reflects a left-wing approach and that it is "sick that political leaders... justify and yield to the enemy."

She adds that if there is any blessing in the series, it lies in the fact "that it has shocked so much of the public."

Rafi Man, also of Ma'ariv is bewildered by right-wing fears about "when someone seeks... to present to the public real and tough pictures of what is going on on the other side." He adds that "Tkuma is our certificate of maturity."

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Lieberman, Eitan trade barbs — again

By SARAH HONIG

Science Minister Michael Eitan "does not bother to collect the facts before pointing fingers," he says the Likud and has managed to thoroughly botch up every job he ever held, Avigdor Lieberman, former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, said yesterday in response to Eitan's latest attack on him.

This time there was no clear-cut impetus for Eitan's attack, but he has been complaining recently that the Likud's Tel Hai Fund is not supervised and that no one in the party, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, really has any inkling about what goes on there.

The fund controls the Likud's assets and Lieberman loyalists Moshe Dolgin and Moshe Nissan, both leading protagonists in the ill-fated November party convention, are in charge of it.

Lieberman, Eitan charged, "is still a shadowy figure who in effect runs the Likud and pulls the strings." The Tel Hai Fund, and with it the entire Likud, were deeply in the red until Netanyahu won the party leadership in 1993, and, with Lieberman as his right hand, rehabilitated the party finances and brought the Tel Hai Fund into the black.

With this in mind, Lieberman asked: "What has Eitan done for this party? Why did he not take the challenge of the bankrupt Tel Hai Fund and overhaul it? Now, as always, standing on the sidelines and heckling, he is also slinging mud without so much as having bothered to gather a shred of evidence to back up a single innuendo."

"Eitan spares Labor from his tongue-lashings, but he supplies it with plenty of anti-Likud material. It is time the prime minister called him to order and admonished him for this sort of reckless and uncollegial behavior, fueled only by the desire to win yet another headline."

Eitan, hinting at Lieberman's Russian origins, said he wonders whether "Lieberman's next move would be to execute me or at the very least exile me to a Siberian gulag. But he will not deter me. I will continue fighting against this man's attempts to treat the Likud as if it were his own private business."

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

"Har Homa's fate is sealed — it will be built," Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert declared yesterday, adding that the delay in beginning construction at the site was "a major setback" he hopes will be overcome in the very near future.

"I wish I could make that decision [to issue bids for initial construction at Har Homa], because if I had been in a position to make it, by now there would have been buildings on top of the mountain," Olmert said. "However, the decision is entirely in the hands of the housing minister, who happens to be the prime minister himself, and it is up to him to make that decision. I can only say that I don't know that there is any genuine reason for this delay... I will use all my political influence to make sure that this will happen as soon as possible."

Construction at Har Homa will begin irrespective of when the government implements the second phase of redeployment, Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani said at the site.

"They are trying to link these two things together, but I think this is a mistake," Kahalani said.

Kahalani joined Olmert, municipal officials and journalists on a tour of infrastructure projects that the municipality is building in eastern Jerusalem as part of a government decision to improve the quality of life there. The tour culminated at Har Homa.

"I think we must build Har Homa today, and I believe we will find the way to go ahead with the



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani surveys Silvan yesterday during a tour of areas in eastern Jerusalem where the municipality has improved the infrastructure. (Brian Hendler)

second phase. I believe it is part of the peace process, which must continue, and it will be carried out, but we must also see to it that the Palestinians do what they are required to do," Kahalani said.

The tour of the infrastructure efforts, being built after a government committee decided to invest

NIS 500 million over four years to improve living conditions in the area, often had the air of a fundraising event.

Pointing out various roadwidening, sewage, drainage and other improvements made in several eastern Jerusalem neighborhoods, municipal officials were

equally quick to point out that much of the work had been stopped because the government had failed to meet its financial commitments to the plan. Only about NIS 85m. of the NIS 130m. earmarked for projects launched in 1997 has been forthcoming so far, they said.

Olmert said that ignoring the needs of the residents was a mistake that would undermine Israel's efforts to maintain sovereignty over the area. The mayor said he told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu he would not tolerate any more delays in transferring the funds for the project.

"In the fight over the unity of Jerusalem, this is the most important issue... because anyone who acts throughout the city, particularly in areas where non-Jews live, like he is in charge and helps its residents improve their way of life will have sovereignty over the city," Olmert explained.

"Abandoning this work is abandoning the ability to have a serious impact on the lives of the residents, which reduces tensions and creates a better atmosphere than what existed before... That is why both from a moral and practical standpoint this is our top priority."

Kahalani welcomed the effort, calling it "the beginning of a new era" in eastern Jerusalem.

"I am sure that the unification of the city will not be accomplished via slogans, but rather through work and creating equal living conditions for the residents, who will appreciate it and accept Israeli sovereignty, and this will determine that Jerusalem will never be divided," Kahalani said, adding that he will pressure Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to provide the necessary funds.

City officials said that while residents at first welcomed the renovations and even gave up some of their land to allow for widening roads, the delays caused by the lack of funding has angered them. Some of them, at first startled by the unexpected arrival of a convoy of police cars and tour buses, complained about the delays to Olmert as he walked through the area.

Palestinian Authority officials at Orient House could not be reached for comment.

Sheetrit acquitted of fraud

By BATSEVA TSUR

Coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheetrit was acquitted yesterday of charges of defrauding the Jewish Agency of \$20,000 while he was treasurer. He said afterwards that the verdict opened the door for him to get a cabinet post.

Sheetrit had been charged with using an agency credit card for personal purchases and treating his family to a trip to the US at the organization's expense.

Judge Michaela Sidlovsky-Orr smiled as she read out the verdict in Jerusalem District Court, where Sheetrit had stood trial for about two years.

Sheetrit was treasurer of the agency from 1988-1992.

The judge noted there was an agency practice of allowing senior officials to use the company credit card for private purchases and then to reimburse the agency later. While Sheetrit should have been

more cautious about using the card, the judge said, his actions were not criminal and he did not intend to take money he was not entitled to or to be dishonest or corrupt.

Sidlovsky-Orr also pointed out that Sheetrit had been under severe personal stress during the period in question, as his adolescent daughter Miri was ill with cancer. The girl died in 1993.

Sheetrit wiped away tears as he listened to the verdict being read. "I am delighted that this nightmare is off my back," Sheetrit told reporters when he emerged from the courtroom. "I have been in public life for 30 years... and everyone knows my word is a word."

He appealed to the state prosecution "to be more careful when charging public figures. A public figure has nothing more precious than his name. But I am not going to hold a grudge against them."

Sheetrit added that his family had been under tremendous pressure

for four years since the charges were raised.

"I always knew he was honest so the verdict is no surprise to me," said his wife Ruth.

Sheetrit said on Channel 1 last night that he was interested in a ministerial appointment, now that he has been acquitted. Asked whether he should be foreign minister, Sheetrit replied, "yes, I would seriously consider that," if the offer was made.

He added that he had plans to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night.

Sheetrit was the latest of a list of public officials to be acquitted of criminal charges lately. The acquittals have led to criticism of the Justice Ministry which is in charge of decisions about who to prosecute.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said in response to the outcry that decisions to prosecute were made only after serious thought and prolonged deliberations.

Even an acquittal serves a purpose

ANALYSIS

who have been convicted in criminal trials.

This list includes former cabinet ministers Aharon Abuhaseira and Raphael Pinhasi, former MKs Shmuel Platto-Sharon, Ya'ir Levi, and Aharon Rechtman. It is not a negligible group.

From the perspective of the public figure, a trial that ends in an acquittal is often better than a decision not to prosecute, which can deprive an official of the opportunity to clear his or her name.

The problem is that trials in Israel are anything but speedy, and sometimes by the time an official has been acquitted, their career has already been ruined.

For example, former Haifa mayor Arie Gurel was acquitted only after he lost an election, largely because of having been brought

up on charges.

Changes must be made in this system. It is crucial for the state to find a way to permit trials to end in a matter of months, instead of years.

Even when a trial ends in acquittal, the judgment can serve a public purpose. In many cases, Sheetrit's included, the behavior of the official on trial is criticized without him being convicted.

Judge Sidlovsky-Orr found that Sheetrit should have been more careful about using the Jewish Agency's credit card, and should have avoided using it for private purposes, even if this was a custom at the agency.

Such a judgment can serve the purpose of setting a new standard and sending a clear message to politicians about what is inappropriate.

Politicians are expected to be more careful from now on. If they ignore the rules laid down by the courts, there may not be an acquittal next time.

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Hundreds of Mevasseret residents hold protest PM, MKs discuss J'lem expansion

By LIAT COLLINS, ARYEH DEAN COHEN, and Nim

A meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Interior Minister Eli Shaisa, and four MKs from the Knesset's Jerusalem caucus on Olmert's plans to annex outlying communities did not result in any conclusions yesterday. They are expected to hold more discussions after Pessah.

Olmert presented his plan which includes annexing Mevasseret Zion, Motza, Tzur Hadassah, Abu Ghosh, and other communities to the west of the capital.

"We are in the midst of a very serious, wide-ranging discussion with the prime minister. The details of this discussion will be presented to the government as part of an overall plan before Independence Day," Olmert told reporters. Olmert denied it was a political move.

Demonstrators including the council heads of towns affected by

the plan held a protest outside the Prime Minister's Office.

Eli Mouyal, head of the Mevasseret local council, said that if his town is annexed to Jerusalem, the local council will appeal to the High Court of Justice. He also threatened massive protests including forced closure of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway.

The MKs at the meeting were: Ophir Pines (Labor) and Ruby Rivlin (Likud), co-founders of the Jerusalem caucus; Emanuel Zissmann (Third Way), and Yuli Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya).

Suissa said the proposal would help solve planning problems, save resources, and help the demographic situation.

Netanyahu said it involved a comprehensive plan, including granting benefits to young couples and students and giving grants to companies to draw them to Jerusalem.

Pines, who objects to the proposal, said it is not right to forcibly annex thousands of peo-

ple who object. He said that instead of dealing with the problem of migration from the city, Olmert is dealing with those who have left.

Most of the caucus members apparently object to the proposal, although they have different reasons. Rivlin said that "if the plan goes ahead, we will lose Jerusalem. It will be divided." He said by spreading only to the west, the city will be split into a Jewish city and an Arab city. "We must face east," he said.

Olmert rejected arguments about Mevasseret Zion's country-like atmosphere. "First of all, the Mevasseret Zion Local Council presented building plans for housing for another 70,000 people, so what has this got to do with a country lifestyle? Every time they talk about adding Mevasseret to Jerusalem, they talk about its country atmosphere. But when they stop talking, they propose building thousands of housing units, pure urban construction."

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Weizman to make ultimate decision on jubilee pardons

By BAT-SHEVA TSOR

President Ezer Weizman said yesterday that the Blatman Committee which is discussing criteria for presidential pardons during the jubilee year will make recommendations but the ultimate decisions will lie with the president.

"It will make suggestions but these are not obligatory," Weizman said at the first meeting

of the newly appointed Council for Rehabilitating Prisoners, at Beit Hanassi yesterday. The council is appointed by the president every four years. The new council head is former justice Zvi Tal.

The act of pardoning a prisoner has an element of rehabilitation because the prisoner realizes that someone cares about him, Weizman said.

Responding to a call from Tal to increase the budget for rehabilita-

tion, Weizman said he would personally approach the finance minister on the issue. He said he also planned to try to get donors to contribute to rehabilitation.

Tal said that more than 80% of released prisoners who had undergone rehabilitation had not returned to prison while more than 80% of those who did not get rehabilitated, were jailed again.

"It is not just that merely because of budget limitations only

a few hundred prisoners are rehabilitated annually," Tal said. He called on the finance and labor and social affairs ministers "to open their hands and hearts."

Tal said that only NIS 3 million was needed to double the number of hostels available.

"Five freed prisoners compete for every place in a hostel today. When we first began working, [in 1984], the prisoners had no faith in the rehabilitation authori-

ties," Avraham Hoffman, director-general of the council, said.

Hoffman said that following a recent project in Jerusalem, only 4 out of 149 inmates had returned to jail. "If we are able to cut violence by 50%, we have done something useful," he said.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said it would be a good idea for Tal to be part of the decision-making process about pardons.

Haggai Amir drops suit against Raviv

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Haggai Amir has decided not to go ahead with his civil suit against former General Security Service agent Avishai Raviv if his prison conditions are improved, his attorney Nitzana Darshan-Leitner said yesterday.

Amir, who is serving a 12-year sentence for his part in the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, had sued Raviv for NIS 5 million, claiming that he incited and entrapped him and his brother Yigal, who murdered Rabin. Amir intended to argue that had Raviv admitted he was a GSS informer during his trial, he could have based Amir's defense on entrapment and received a significantly lower sentence.

According to Darshan-Leitner, two weeks ago the GSS offered Haggai a deal whereby his prison conditions would be improved if he dropped the suit. She said he agreed and, as a first move, has cancelled his application to Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court to waive the fees he was required to pay as part of the suit.

Darshan-Leitner said the GSS promised to gradually move Haggai to a prison closer to his parents' home and allow him more telephone calls and visits.



Being beseder for Pessah

President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma meet yesterday at Beit Hanassi with immigrants Sergei Rushak from Ukraine (far left) and Andrei Gunayev from the Ural Mountain region, who are being hosted by Jewish Agency Treasurer Sallai Meridor (center) for the seder. Meridor is one of 500 Israelis, including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who are inviting single immigrants and soldiers for the seder as part of an agency-sponsored program called Yehad Beseider or 'Together at the Seder'.

(Isaac Harari)

Court asks A-G's opinion on expelled Bulgarian singers

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court has invited Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to give his opinion in the case of four Bulgarian singers who were deported on suspicion of illegal entry six months ago.

Judge Adi Ezer invited Rubinstein, or his representative, to resolve a dispute between the Foreign and Interior ministries.

The four singers were deported on suspicion they were construction workers illegally seeking work. Upon their return to Bulgaria, the Israeli ambassador in Sofia invited them back to Israel and issued them entrance visas and a document stating they are singers invited to the country for a voluntary perfor-

mance before Bulgarian immigrants.

On arrival, they were held at the airport even though they had entrance visas. They were eventually allowed to enter but, at the instruction of the Interior Ministry, forced to deposit a NIS 60,000 bank guarantee. The Bulgarians, represented by attorney Moshe Aloni, are currently suing the state to return the bank guarantee and compensate them.

Ezer noted that the chain of events casts doubt on the role of the ambassador to Bulgaria.

"The cancellation of an entrance visa at the airport is obviously a very serious issue which has ramifications on the quality of the Israeli ambassador's work and raises a conflict between the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry," he said.

Levy opposes privatization of schools

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy has come out against the privatization or commercialization of schools, saying that the educational, national and civic aims of the education system are not for sale.

In an interview in the ministry's journal *Arutz Hainuch*, Levy said: "The state and society must carry out these tasks on their own, and not via contractors, buyers or middlemen."

Levy said that he sees himself as continuing in the ideological path of the late Zevulun Hammer regarding expanding values education.

"I hope to bring about a natural combination of educational programs which will stress values education in all areas of education, including education towards democracy, tolerance and coexis-

tence, and education towards involvement in society and the community," he said.

Levy also said he is committed to integration, but that there does not have to be a contradiction between integration and encouraging excellence. He also said he was "very concerned about violence in the schools. I asked for updated data on the scope of the problem and we will fight it unstintingly."

Levy also plans to seek greater autonomy for teachers in the schools, and declared he would pursue greater equality in the level of education provided for the non-Jewish population.

"I see myself as the education minister of the Jewish, Arab, Druse, Circassian and Beduin children in all regards," he said.

He also said he would continue to seek ways to reduce the amount parents pay for school fees.

Yahalom opens new airport terminal

By HAIM SHAPIRO

As thousands of Israelis were preparing to go abroad for the Pessah holiday, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom yesterday inaugurated the second stage of Terminal B at Ben-Gurion Airport.

The area opened yesterday, which cost some NIS 25 million and extends over 3,500 square meters, is to be used for international flights. It includes 33 check-in counters and 12 passport control positions, as well as a customs area, a bank, an information stand and a snack bar. Nearby is a parking garage for 300 vehicles.

Terminal B is used by 18 airlines, mostly charter companies, but it is also the home terminal for

Tower Air. It also is used for domestic flights.

Originally the expansion plan had included space for duty-free shops, so that all pre-flight services could be located in one building. However, as a result of the constantly increasing numbers of passengers, the available space was used for additional security and check-in counters and baggage handling. Passengers from Terminal B will thus continue to be taken by bus to Terminal A, where the departure gates are located.

In a related development, Yahalom yesterday appealed to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to speed up the authorization for a new terminal and civil aircraft parking area at Tel

Aviv's Sde Dov Airport, following the Air Force's withdrawal of all of its objections to the plan. Yahalom said, the new site, north of the present one would reduce the noise and annoyance of aircraft for the residents of north Tel Aviv. He said that the work should be completed within two or three years and that the cost would be tens of millions of shekels.

Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadya noted that in addition to the present plans, there are also more far-reaching plans to move the entire airport to an area built over the sea. Among the considerations for this plan are the cost of construction, the value of the property which would be vacated, and the environmental concerns.

Cross-Israel protesters greet Africa-Israel stockholders

By LIAT COLLINS

Several protesters were arrested yesterday after demonstrators, dressed as Robin Hood and hanging upside down, rappelled down the side of the building in Tel Aviv where shareholders of Africa-Israel Investments, one of the groups behind the Cross-Israel Highway project, were holding a meeting.

The rappellers, from the Movement for Public Transport, carried a placard reading: "Africa-Israel owner! Lev

Leviyev takes from the poor and gives to the rich." They said the highway project will encourage the use of private vehicles instead of public transport, which would benefit all, particularly those who cannot afford cars.

As they entered the building, the shareholders were greeted by demonstrators from the Anonymous group made up to look like road accident victims lying on an imitation road.

They claimed the company is ignoring a Health Ministry report that the road could signif-

icantly increase the number of accidents.

Members of another group - Students in a Green Society - had previously bought shares in the company and legally entered the meeting, where they raised their claims that the highway is unnecessary and will cause environmental and health hazards without ending traffic jams in the center of the country.

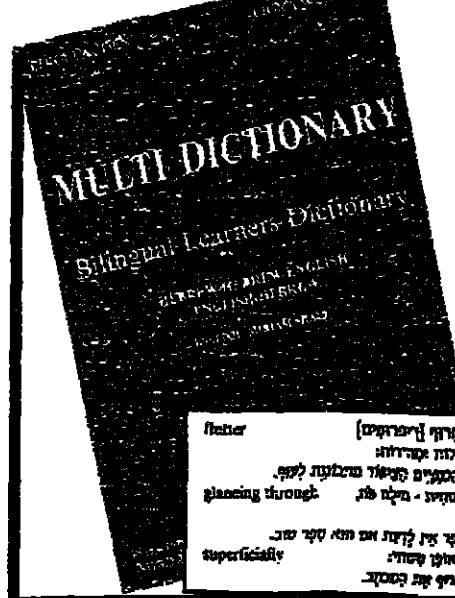
Rony Armon, a representative of the group, said the company agreed to a meeting to discuss the different aspects of the project.



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When Irish eyes are smiling

For US senator-turned-statesman George Mitchell, a peace settlement in Ireland would be the pinnacle of an illustrious political career

By T.R. REID

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The biting wind and icy rain that mark the season euphemistically known as "spring" in this chilly province came slamming through the gate of Stormont Castle, and George J. Mitchell tightened his coat against the cold. But the senator-turned-statesman was actually thinking about the days of mid-summer back in Washington.

"The prospect of summer recess was always a powerful force for action in the Senate," Mitchell, 64, recalled with a nostalgic smile.

Indeed, during his seven years as Senate majority leader, the Democrat from Maine was famous for scheduling major bills on the eve of the summer recess, so senators would stop talking and move to a vote.

And now the former senator has adopted the same strategy in his role as chairman of the seemingly endless negotiations aimed at resolving the sectarian violence that has bloodied Northern Ireland for three decades. Mitchell has told the parties meeting at the big gray castle on the outskirts of Belfast that the deadline for a settlement is today — the eve of the Easter holiday.

If the negotiators actually manage the feat they will end one of the century's longest and most intractable violent conflicts, one that has raised a generation in a climate of hatred, anger, fear and bloodshed. They will demonstrate that talking to one another is more powerful than terrorism. They will make that day, April 9, one of the most memorable dates in Ireland's long and difficult history.

"Oh, it could be the most important day in the life of any of us here," said John Hume, 61, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, Northern Ireland's largest Roman Catholic party.

"It would rank, wouldn't it, with the success of the civil-rights movement in America?"

Segregated by hatred and distrust into sectarian factions — with mainly Protestants on one side and mainly Catholics on the other — the people of this British province have been shooting, stabbing and bombing one another since the era known here as "The Troubles" began in 1969. More than 3,200 men, women and children have been killed, and tens of thousands of homes and businesses destroyed.

Mitchell had no illusions about how implacable the problem was when he accepted a request from the governments of Britain and Ireland to chair the international three-member panel supervising the settlement talks.

"But, you know, that was June of 1996," the American said, shaking his head in disbelief. "I never thought they'd still be at it 21 months later. And last month, I think we all came to the realization that we ought to try to get this thing over with before everybody took the break for Easter."

Ten political parties from the province, plus the British and Irish governments, were represented in the negotiations at the outset. Eight of the parties are still at the table, which should be enough to



Mediating the Northern Irish conflict has been much harder work than a senator's. Mitchell outside Stormont Castle, Belfast, where he has been leading marathon talks aimed at ending the centuries-old conflict between Protestants and Catholics. (AP)

ensure public support if a deal emerges.

In a culture that honors the character trait known as "thran" — essentially, dogged stubbornness — lingering hostilities have made the going tough. The Irish gift for gab — almost all the politicians in the room are marvelous storytellers — dragged things out even more.

Today, sheer exhaustion is writ large on the faces of the participants — not least the chairman, who has run this negotiation through the death of his brother and the birth of his first son.

Mitchell has had to squeeze in this job among his duties as a lawyer (with the Washington firm Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand); as a director of the Walt Disney Co., Federal Express, Xerox and other corporations; and as chairman of an international crisis intervention group.

"I think this is much harder work than the Senate was," Mitchell said matter-of-factly. "For one thing, I don't have the kind of authority over these guys that I had in the Senate. And back then, I was in the same country — heck, the same city — from Monday to Friday."

Now I fly New York-London-Belfast every week, stay here a few days, and fly back across the ocean.

"I've had a cold and flu since January, and it's hard to shake in this weather. I really want to go home."

So why does he stick with a job that offers much jet lag and no pay? Like many before him, Mitchell has found himself smitten with Northern Ireland.

This misty province of 1.6 million people is a world of green hills surrounding valleys that are even greener and dappled, these spring days, with the pale pink of apple blossom and yellow splash-

es of daffodil.

Northern Ireland is primarily an agricultural country, except for some new high-tech plants in Londonderry and the old factories and shipyards of Belfast, where the *Titanic* was built. The people are so talkative, friendly and funny that it is hard to believe that they've been murdering each other for so long.

Mitchell is descended from Irish immigrants named Kilroy — but he never knew that as a child in Maine. He was adopted by Lebanese immigrants and raised as a Maronite Catholic, an Eastern rite church centered in Lebanon. He had spent two days in Ireland when he got involved in the Northern Ireland question.

"I confess that I have really gotten wrapped up in the place," Mitchell said. "The people are very articulate, very knowledgeable about history, very engaging. And to see these people, the whole day long, gripped by fear and anxiety because of this old conflict — it truly will be historic if we can settle this."

If the talks here do end up making history, a good deal of the credit, everyone agrees, will go to the mild-mannered American who has found a way to get civil warriors of Northern Ireland to talk to each other.

"Mitchell has been superb," said David Adams, head of the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of one of the Protestant street armies. "He's like the best student in a seminar — always listening, always asking questions, and then when he offers an idea, everybody listens to him."

"His patience has been incredible," Hume agreed. "He keeps regular contact with all parties, even when they go storming out of the room. He is a crucial factor." Mitchell says the skills he brings to his moderator's role trace back to his Senate days.

"The one thing I learned in politics was to listen, genuinely, to what each person is saying. To understand the pressures they face. Because all these guys here are politicians. They have to answer to constituencies. And if you've been in the Senate, you have a feel for that kind of pressure."

Just about everyone agrees that a settlement will require compromise on both sides.

Since the British monarchy began sending English and Scottish farmers across the Irish Sea centuries ago to the rolling country of the northeast corner of the island, it has been mainly Protestant, while the majority of the island remained primarily Roman Catholic.

Under a 1920 British law, the six Protestant-dominated counties of Ulster became Northern Ireland, which remained a province of Britain.

The remaining 26 counties later became the Republic of Ireland. But there were Catholics living in the north, and they were subjected to legalized discrimination not unlike the Jim Crow system in the American South. The Catholic minority began fighting for equality in 1969, inspired in part by the US civil-rights movement — but they did not import the nonviolent aspect of the American model.

The battle has generally pitted members of one faith against members of the other, but the fight has almost nothing to do with religious dogma or belief. The so-called nationalists — primarily, but not entirely, Catholic — have been arguing that British rule should end and Northern Ireland should unite with the Republic. The unionists — primarily, but not entirely, Protestant — insist on remaining part of Britain.

The compromise proposal at the center of the talks would maintain

the tie to Britain but also seek to create some form of cross-border governmental body linking north and south. Almost everybody has now agreed to that general outline, but working out the fine points has been excruciating.

One problem is that the Republic of Ireland will probably have to rewrite its constitution to replace a clause saying that the entire island is one nation. The government in Dublin is not happy about this idea, and the problem now is to find wording that will satisfy the pro-British unionists in the north without giving the Republic an identity crisis.

There is also the question of what to do with the huge arsenals of guns and explosives assembled by street armies on both sides.

Some kind of disarmament — known here as decommissioning — seems essential, but the combatants are wary of giving up their means of defense. This issue is so difficult that the negotiators are likely to fudge it with *soffie vagde* language this week and come back to the specifics later. An agreement would be followed by referendums in Ireland and Northern Ireland, probably next month, before the height of the summer "marching season" that often triggers sectarian violence.

Even if all the lingering questions can be resolved by Thursday, some diehards on either side may keep fighting. But polls by the BBC and the Belfast Telegraph show overwhelming public support for an agreement now.

This, too, is a major motivating force for George J. Mitchell. "I think everybody knows that there's a tremendous yearning here for a settlement," the American said, setting out warily into the cold rain.

"Now the question is whether those of us at Stormont can give it to them." (The Washington Post)

AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

The gala function, which will take place just a few hours after the ceremony in Jerusalem, will be attended by most senators, a fair proportion of congressmen, a large number of senior administration officials, and numerous members of the international diplomatic community present in the US. AIPAC leaders will form a welcoming committee and keep a record of those who attend. On the eve of elections, most senior American politicians prefer not to be on the list of absentees.

My examination of the program showed that the guests of honor, who will present the key speeches of the evening, will be Vice President Al Gore, President Bill Clinton's natural successor in the presidential race scheduled for 2000, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The only way Netanyahu could possibly manage to attend both functions would be by hiring a Concorde, thus exploiting the seven-hour time difference between Jerusalem and Washington. However, Netanyahu's schedule shows that he will be in the US between May 13 and 18. He has taken the opportunity to arrange meetings with the secretaries of state and defense, CIA director, and of course Jewish leaders.

Clinton will be out of town on those dates and is due to return two days later. Netanyahu's staffers seem to have learned their lesson, preferring not to request a meeting with the president and planning to leave Washington before his return to avoid embarrassment. If Clinton does ask to meet with Netanyahu, it would be fair to assume that he would make

room in his schedule and postpone his return to Israel. This is despite the fact that May 19 has been scheduled for a possible visit by the Swiss president, assuming that the fallout from the Mossad affair has been cleared up.

The date for the swearing-in ceremony is determined by law and the prime minister's absence will not be forgiven easily.

In the US, too, the date for swearing in the president-elect is determined by law. In January 1985 the date for swearing in Ronald Reagan for his second term coincided with the Super Bowl. Reagan solved the problem by holding a short ceremony and holding the festive ceremony on Capitol Hill the following day.

The third redeployment

The government is seriously discussing the American proposals for bridging the Israel-Palestinian gap presented by Dennis Ross on his recent visit. This is a complex issue which requires in-depth study. The inner cabinet is unanimous that any redeployment which exceeds 8 percent-9 percent constitutes a real threat to our security. According to the Oslo Accords, Israel is bound to implement the third redeployment by this summer. The government is finding it hard to reach a decision when it does not know what the next stage will be and without the scope of the third redeployment being agreed upon in advance.

This is the crux of the message carried by Yitzhak Molcho, the prime minister's personal envoy to negotiations with the Palestinians, to senior American officials with whom he met in London. The message did not raise a smile on the faces of

Israel's supporters in the administration, who expect Netanyahu to be more forthcoming.

It would seem that rejoicing in Jerusalem over postponement of the American plan was premature. Pressure brought to bear by Congress is being felt in Washington, but Clinton has nevertheless decided to send Ross on another mission after Pessah. However, no one really expects Israel to be pressured during Gore's visit for the Independence Day celebrations. An initiative in the form of an ultimatum is no longer under discussion — it is being presented as an idea for bridging the gap. But this is merely a semantic difference.

Jerusalem is still counting on the fact that the plan will not be publicized while Netanyahu is out of the country, and next month he will scarcely be in Jerusalem. Next week he will be vacationing in Eilat. After that he is off to Poland and then Washington. This will be followed by a trip to China. A Western diplomat whom I met this week asked me cynically if I was sure that the prime minister would be in Israel on its 50th Independence Day.

Postponement of the peace plan is the carrot. The stick: While the security cabinet — a forum which has convened almost daily this week as a sign of the serious discussions under way in Jerusalem — decided to send Molcho to meet Dennis Ross, a meeting took place on the ground floor of the State Department attended by all the US ambassadors in the Middle East.

While Molcho's plane was taking off, the ambassadors were sitting down to dinner together. What did they discuss? UN Resolution 425, Iraq, Iran, and the Iranian national boxing team, which had arrived from Tehran to

participate in competitions in the US. This is a sign of improved relations between the two countries following President Mohammed Khatami's election victory, even though the team was held up at the airport so that its members could be photographed and fingerprinted by immigration officials.

Netanyahu was also discussed. All the ambassadors reported that the Arab capitals had lost faith in his intentions to promote the peace process. This is the stick.

Ambition and motivation

This column has, in the past, hinted that there are two approaches to Israel in Washington. One is to prevent conflict with Israel and the Jewish community, while promoting the political process through understanding, deriving from a deep motivation to bring peace to the area. This week this approach was granted another opportunity when Clinton decided to send Ross to the area for further discussions.

The second approach is guided by the strong sense of ambition felt in the State Department to fulfill the Oslo Accords at any price. The convention of ambassadors is preparation for a strong response if Israel does not soften its approach.

The key dispute at this stage lies in the desire of the Palestinians to expand their settlements at the expense of the Jewish settlements, while Israel attempts to protect the settlers and the coalition.

The idea behind attempting to bridge the gap between the 9% offered by Jerusalem and the 13% which the US is demanding, by defining the additional 4% as Zone C-Minus or B-Plus, is aimed at enabling the Palestinians to

decide how to expand their jurisdiction for construction purposes in some of their towns and villages.

At this week's inner cabinet meeting, which examined the maps prepared by the IDF, the question was raised as to how to make the distinction between areas which are already under full Palestinian control and those to be defined under the new American proposal. Will it be possible to place a zone of soldiers between Zone A and Zone C-Minus?

One thing was abundantly clear to all those participating. The differences between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon vanished as if they had never existed. Defense officials told me that Sharon's aides took part in the preparation of the maps by the IDF and drew my attention to the fact that Mordechai has slowly but surely retracted his demand for a two-digit redeployment. He now mentions only 8.5%, whereas Sharon is still discussing the possibility of 9%.

In any event, Ross is not the only guest who will be arriving immediately after Pessah. British Prime Minister Tony Blair will be coming for an official visit at the same time. He has withdrawn his intention of staying overnight in Gaza, but he will pay a visit.

This week European Union peace coordinator Miguel Moratinos visited Jerusalem, accompanied by the head of the Middle East desk at the British Foreign Office. They made it absolutely clear that Blair wishes to leave Israel with some political gain to his credit, such as reaching agreement on the opening of the Dahanuza airfield or at least establishing the Karni industrial park. This is the European carrot. The

stick is an initiative by the EU, coordinated with Washington, to isolate Israel. Officials in Jerusalem are not ignoring the danger, chiefly with reference to the EU, which imports Israeli produce valued at \$6 billion annually. Its exports to Israel may be twice as great, but we have yet to see the Israeli public giving up the luxury products which come from Europe.

Moderate pressure

On Monday morning, eve of Id al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice), I went to the Old City of Jerusalem in order to get a feel for the pre-holiday atmosphere. This festival marks the end of the period of the Haj pilgrimage. At the Damascus Gate, a police patrol had knocked over a pita stand, set up by a child wishing to help his family's finances. Asking the police why they had acted in this manner on the eve of the festival, I added, "The child will remember this incident for the rest of his life. Without even trying, you have just created another terrorist cell."

Many years ago, at the height of the intifada, the police would have threatened me, demanding to see my ID. This week, they controlled themselves and turned the other way. They offered to help the child reposition the stall so that it would not disrupt pedestrian traffic. My comment was apparently in line with the instructions they had received from their superiors. This was confirmed by Abu-Imad, an antique dealer, who has stressed that the behavior of the Israeli authorities in eastern Jerusalem has been humane and restrained in recent months.

A truly festive atmosphere pervaded the Old City. Prices in the

market which had been set up outside the Damascus Gate were comparable with those of the Mahaneh Yehuda market, perhaps a kilogram of tomatoes sold for NIS 10; four kilograms of avocado for NIS 10; a kilogram of eggplant was NIS 3. This is a sign of relative plenty.

At the same time, Ibril Rajoub was holding his famous press conference, in which he accused Muhi Sharif's opponents, members of a Hamas cell, of being responsible for his assassination.

Why did this raise eyebrows in Israel?

First, because security officials are not convinced that the rules of interrogation laid down by the Landau Commission, which permit almost no physical force to be exerted during an interrogation, have been accepted by the Palestinian secret service.

Second, because there are those who believe that the conversation between Madeleine Albright and Yasser Arafat, in which she warned him against incitement against Israel had considerable effect.

Third, because the Palestinian Authority is concerned that the peace process will die as a result of large-scale terrorist attacks.

Fourth, because any renewed closure imposed on the territories will result in a collapse of the already low Palestinian standard of living and cause prices in their markets to skyrocket.

On the eve of the festival the Palestinians want peace and quiet. They want to move freely from one place to another, visit family, and share the festive meal with them. They do not want roadblocks everywhere. It does not reduce their sense of frustration, but it frightens them because they know things can be a lot worse.

Indonesia, IMF ink third aid package since October

JAKARTA (Reuters) - Indonesia and the International Monetary Fund yesterday reached agreement on a revised program of economic reform, with the IMF stressing it is up to Jakarta to ensure its implementation.

It is the third agreement between Indonesia and the IMF since last October. The country was perceived to drag its feet on the first two accords, and the rapid deterioration of the economy made original targets unattainable.

The latest agreement came as security forces again clashed with students in the second city of Surabaya, demanding more dramatic economic and political reform to solve the crisis.

Ginandjar Kartasasmita, Indonesia's coordinating minister for economics and finance, said full details of the accord would be disclosed today, after a report had been handed to members of the IMF's executive board.

The agreement forecast a shrinkage in the economy of 4 percent compared to a January prediction of zero growth, and inflation of 17% through the fiscal year that started on April 1.

"No surprises here. This is mostly within expectations with nothing out of the ordinary," said Sani Hamid, an analyst with MMS/Standard & Poor's in Singapore. "The growth forecast is probably in line with market views. Many had expected -5% or even less."

Ginandjar, speaking after a monthly cabinet meeting of economic ministers, said President Suharto had ordered them to carry through the reforms.

"The instruction from President Suharto in the cabinet meeting was that all commitments should be honored," he said.

The IMF, however, remained sceptical and said in a statement after Ginandjar spoke that "the credibility of the program depends on its full implementation."

There will be daily monitoring by

Indonesia's top economic team in close cooperation with the IMF, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, substantive actions before the IMF board formally approves the program, and frequent IMF reviews.

In Surabaya, East Java, witnesses said dozens of students were injured when police used tear gas and water cannons to stop around 500 students from leaving the Airlangga University campus during an anti-government protest.

One witness said the students moved toward the gate and police fired police gas to stop them.

"The security forces then used the water cannons with discolored water that looked like it was from a septic tank, and the stinking water made dozens of others vomit and run away," the witness said.

Students retaliated by throwing stones at police, the witness said. It was not clear if any of the security forces were injured. There were no immediate reports of arrests.

In Tokyo, IMF first deputy managing director Stanley Fischer, who was in Jakarta late last week, told a news conference the fund would halt its program if promises are not kept.

"We have measures in place and if they are not implemented, the program won't go ahead. We have no assurance. We cannot have assurance, given history, that it will be done," he said.

Financial markets appeared to accept the agreement, with the rupiah currency stable around 8,425 to the dollar, and the Jakarta stock index up 0.74% to 330 points.

The IMF said the main elements of the program included a strong monetary policy to ensure stabilization of the rupiah, and effective control of the budget, with allowances for a

temporary fall in economic growth and the need to subsidize basic commodities for the nation's 200 million people.

Other aspects included accelerated bank restructuring, a comprehensive agenda of structural reforms, the strengthening of a social safety net through support for small and medium businesses and public works programs, and development of a framework to restore trade financing and deal with corporate debt and inter-bank credit.

Indonesia turned to the IMF last October as the collapse in the rupiah from around 2,400 to the dollar at mid-year forced up prices and unemployment, threw most companies into technical bankruptcy, and disrupted trade.

The IMF said the main aims of the program "are to stabilize the Indonesian financial situation and to establish the foundations for a resumption of economic growth."

Ginandjar forecast a budget deficit of 3.2% of gross domestic product in 1998/99, largely due to the subsidies.

Subsidies on most items other than fuel are due to be phased out by October.

He also said the government will grant no more monopolies, which economic analysts said had primarily benefited members of Suharto's own family and close associates.

The IMF's Fischer said the monopolies had been "an important part of the way the Indonesian government or the Indonesian economy operated."

Ginandjar said Indonesia would follow a Mexican model in dealing with the debt issue, but stressed there would be no bail-out or subsidies for indebted companies.

Indonesia has a private foreign debt of \$74 billion, of which the focus is on some \$35 billion. International bankers are to meet in New York on April 15 to discuss the issue.



Out with a bang

NBC taped its final episode of 'Seinfeld' yesterday, and will air the final show of the top sitcom series on May 14.

(AP)

Newscaster Mourousi, 55

By MARILYN AUGUST

PARIS (AP) - Yves Mourousi, the former anchorman who revolutionized French television journalism with his casual but straight-talking style, has died after suffering a heart attack. He was 55.

Mourousi, who died at his Paris home Tuesday night, was head of the committee organizing the city's millennium celebrations.

President Jacques Chirac said yesterday that Mourousi was "one of the great figures in French television" and "a friend" to millions of people who tuned in daily for his noon broadcasts.

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said Mourousi "touched the people so deeply."

Mourousi, who anchored the midday news on TF1 from 1975-88, was one of the most colorful figures in French television, his gravelly smoker's voice and friendly "Bonjour" known to millions.

He and co-anchor Marie-Laure Augry earned high ratings with their magazine-style approach to current events.

Augry offset Mourousi's conversational manner, and biting humor, and the two were widely imitated in France and across Europe.

Russia braces for Left-led strike

By ANDREI KHALIP

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The Russian Justice Ministry issued an appeal for order yesterday, as the first protesters took to the streets on the eve of nationwide labor protests today.

Trade unions and left-wing political groups plan to mobilize strikes and demonstrations at mounting wage arrears that have left many on the bread-line. About two million downed tools or joined rallies across Russia in a similar day of action a year ago.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov told a news conference he expects 15 million people to take part in the protests. But a survey conducted by the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion

showed support for the day of action was mainly concentrated among pensioners, manual workers, and the jobless.

Interfax news agency quoted the survey as showing 30 percent of those canvassed did not even know about the planned protests.

The Justice Ministry warned protesters to abide by the law. "If there are unlawful acts, they will be dealt with decisively according to the law and the guilty will face the legal consequences," it said in a statement.

The ministry said tensions were high and, noting a rise in "politically intolerant statements by public figures," it cautioned against playing on racial, ethnic, and social divisions and against "fascism and other forms of extremism."

Thousands of doctors and other medical staff got their demands in a day early yesterday, staging a demonstration outside the White House, seat of the federal government in central Moscow.

A government official promised to hand their demands for higher salaries and an end to arrears to prime minister-designate Sergei Kiriyenko.

Despite government promises to pay off months of delayed wages, central and regional authorities owed doctors, teachers, and other public sector workers 7.6 billion rubles (\$1.2 billion) as of March 1.

Failure to pay them precipitated President Boris Yeltsin's decision to sack Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his entire government two weeks ago.

Mikhail Shmakov, head of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions, told Ekho Moskvy radio that total wage arrears across the Russian Federation, including the private sector, stood at \$8 billion redenominated rubles (\$9.6b.), exceeding a previous all-time record posted last summer.

But he made clear the unions had been encouraged by Kiriyenko's pledge to tackle the arrears problem if he was approved in the post of prime minister by Russia's parliament.

"Our last meeting with acting Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko showed that he is personally concerned and has ordered those working out the government's new program to listen attentively to the proposals of the trade unions," Shmakov said.

As MPs pass budget

Japan readies for major tax debate

By WILLIAM MALLARD

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan cleared a major hurdle yesterday in its path to rousing the slumping economy, enacting a budget that paves the way for the government to consider the tax cuts demanded by its domestic and international critics.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will likely address the nation today in a news conference, following last night's approval by the Upper House of parliament of the overdue budget for fiscal 1998/99, a government source said.

Hashimoto is expected to mark a clear shift in priority to economic stimulus from cutting the budget and announce that he will convene a key council on Friday that could open the door to big tax cuts.

But it is unclear how far he will go in signalling to the world that the government may actually cut taxes deeply.

After the budget passed, Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga said the government must maintain "the spirit of fiscal reform" in undertaking the economic stimulus and be indicated no change in his ministry's caution on tax cuts.

Matsunaga declined to say whether he favours revising the fiscal reform law, which essentially bars big tax cuts, but told reporters it is becoming questionable whether increasing people's disposable income really boosts consumption.

Media reports said the government would soon agree to continue a 2 trillion yen (\$15.0 billion) income tax cut next year, but would put off a decision on bigger or permanent tax cuts.

The reports said prime minister and other leaders of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party fear that overhauling the fiscal reform law would increase pressure on them to resign over the reversal of their fiscal-rectitude policy - until recently the centerpiece of Hashimoto's political platform.

But expectations that the tight-lipped Hashimoto was on the verge of frankly discussing stimulus, particularly income and corporate tax cuts, gripped Tokyo markets yesterday.

The stock market upped the ante for him to make good on his vague promises of "bold" economic measures, on little more than the hope that the 77.7 trillion yen budget's passage would open the verbal floodgates for talk about tax cuts.

This came as Japan was hit by more worrisome economic news and as the International Monetary Fund joined a chorus of calls for strong action.

Fears of deflation were stoked when the Bank of Japan reported that domestic wholesale prices fell 0.1 percent in March from the same period a year earlier.

The IMF's First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer said in Tokyo that the fund believes Japan needs fiscal expansion for its economy and that much of the expansion should be in the form of tax cuts.

"There is an immediate need for a substantial fiscal expansion," Fischer told a symposium, urging that most of a promised 16 trillion yen economic stimulus package be in tax cuts, instead of public works spending.

Expressing concern about wasteful public spending, he added: "Anyone who doubts the effectiveness of tax measures needs only to

consider the effectiveness of last year's tax increase in curbing demand."

Japan last year increased its consumption tax to five percent from three percent, a move seen as a major factor in pushing down consumption.

Among the forms of tax relief the United States has been pushing on Japan, a newspaper report said yesterday, is a reversal of that consumption tax hike. The daily *Asahi Shimbun* said US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin sounded out former Japanese premier Kiichi Miyazawa in a March 5 meeting on various tax cuts, including the consumption tax.

Miyazawa rebuffed Rubin on tax cuts and said reversing course on the consumption tax would topple Hashimoto's government, the *Asahi* said, citing government and LDP sources.

The government has repeatedly denied any intention to cut the consumption tax, but has been vague on possible income tax cuts while the budget for the year that started April 1 remained before parliament.

The reports have said the government is expected to compile a supplementary budget to finance the 16 trillion yen stimulus package but on tax cuts, stop at extending until next year the current one-off two trillion yen in annual income tax cuts.

The government will flesh out the stimulus outline around April 24. Jiji news service quoted senior LDP member Hiromu Nonaka as saying.

The LDP's policy chief, Taku Yamasaki, has said the stimulus package will likely include eight trillion yen in fresh fiscal stimulus, partly in the form of tax cuts. But he has refused to specify an amount.

Sony Bono's widow captures House seat

By MARK Z. BARABAK

WASHINGTON - Mary Bono surged past a field of five opponents Tuesday to capture the House seat held by her late husband, Sonny, in a contest that mixed personal tragedy with public debate over her role as a widow.

With roughly two-thirds of precincts reporting, Republican Bono had 65.5 percent of the vote to 27.1% for Democratic rival Ralph Waite, the actor of *Pa Walton* fame. Four other candidates split the rest of the vote allowing Bono to win the seat outright and avoid a June runoff.

I believe it's really very simple - running a positive campaign on the issues, Bono said at her election night celebration at the Marquis Hotel in Palm Springs, Calif., where she invoked the memory of her late husband.

"He'd be proud, and he'd be thinking 'I knew you could do it,'" she said.

In a separate election in the East Bay area in northern California, state Sen. Barbara Lee, 53, of Oakland appeared headed for election to fill the seat of her former boss, retired Rep. Ron Dellums, capturing 67.3% of the vote in early returns.

Democrats have long enjoyed a huge registration advantage in the Oakland-Berkeley district, represented in Congress by the liberal Dellums for nearly 30 years until he retired in February.

Republicans hold a smaller but significant edge in the sprawling Riverside County district.

As such, the results Tuesday fulfilled expectations for both major parties, with each keeping seats they have held for years.

Barbara, Calif.

now need a gain of 11 seats to win back control of the House in November.

Mathematics aside, the Palm Springs race to fill Bono's seat drew nationwide attention to the desert playground, thanks to the combination of glitz, tragedy and celebrity that surrounded the contest.

The 44th Congressional District seat was vacated January 5, when Sonny Bono died in a skiing accident at Lake Tahoe.

His 36-year-old widow, who married the entertainer in 1986 and stumped alongside him in campaigns for Palm Springs mayor and Congress, was the sentimental favorite among Republicans. Party elders cleared the field of serious competition to encourage her candidacy and helped Bono build a 3-1 financial advantage over Waite.

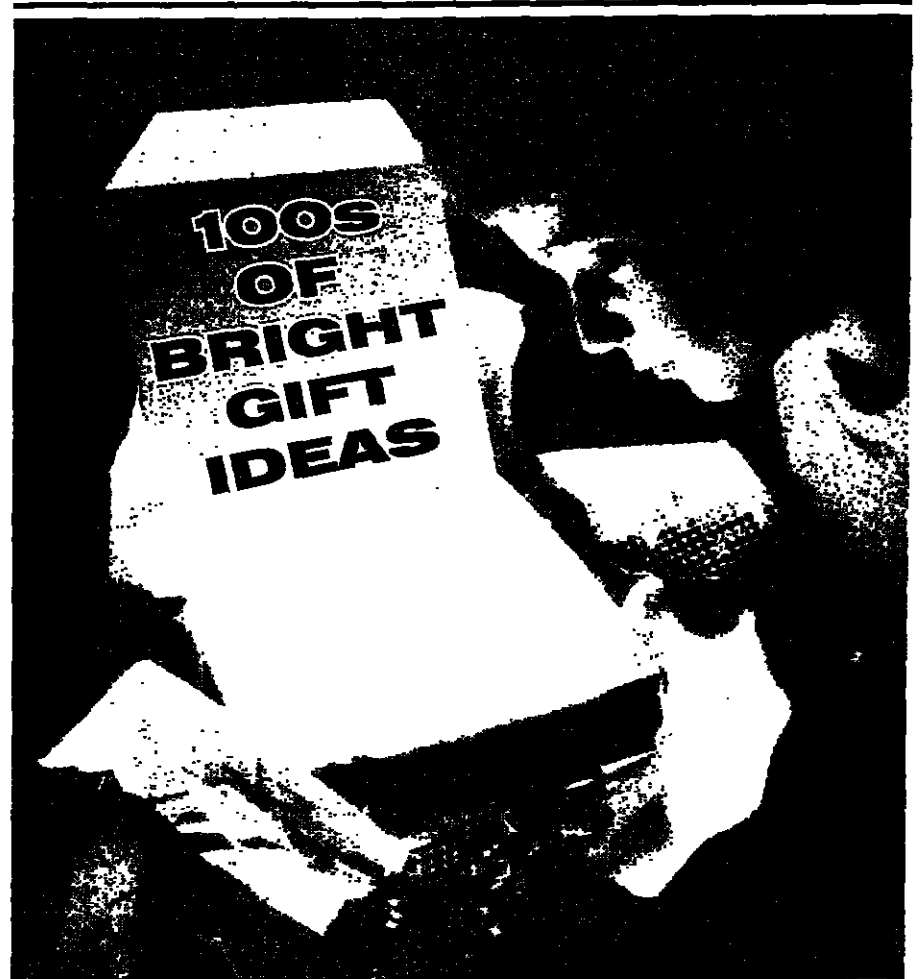
Waite, 69, who made a strong but unsuccessful bid for the seat in 1990, was hampered by logistic headaches as well as fund-raising problems. Before the special election was set, he agreed to star in a production of *Death of a Salesman* in New Jersey, a commitment he kept even though it forced him to spend four days a week away from the southern California district.

Bono benefited from both an absentee opponent and the good will generated by her husband's two terms in Congress and four years as Palm Springs mayor. She also ran a strong race after a shaky start, turning an early set of nerves into a practiced and engaging style over the course of the two-month campaign.

And Bono had history on her side in this century. 36 of 38 widows who sought their husbands' House seats have been elected.

(Los Angeles Times)

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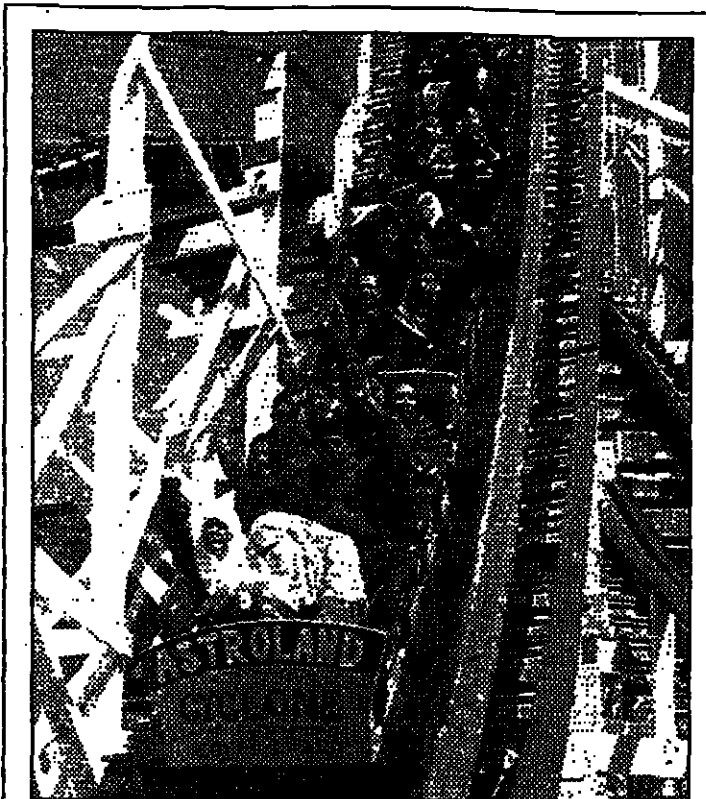
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Taking a ride

Moslem women enjoy a ride on the Cyclone roller coaster at New York's Coney Island amusement park on Tuesday, to mark the holiday of Id-al-Adha, the holiday to commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son at God's command. (AP)

Australian storyteller defies Literati

By MICHAEL PERRY

SYDNEY, (Reuters) — Bryce Courtenay sells millions of books and commands million-dollar advances from publishers, yet in his own words he is a pariah among the literati of his adopted home Australia.

"I have a large chip on my shoulder," Courtenay says in his high-pitched South African accent. "I have been totally spurned by the so-called literati because I am a popular author."

Courtenay says his financial success from books like *The Power of One*, made into a movie starring Sir John Gielgud and Morgan Freeman, has fuelled a "sense of injustice" among the literati who, he says, are "born and bred on government grants."

"They have decided to annihilate my reputation as a writer," Courtenay said, adding he has never been invited to an Australian writers' festival but has lectured on writing at universities and is one of the country's top public speakers.

Courtenay's work, like that of authors of popular British "bodice-rippers" Jackie Collins and Jilly Cooper, is dismissed as pulp fiction by the literati, says James Hall, editor of *The Australian Review of*

Books.

Hall rejects a literati conspiracy against Courtenay, but concedes his phenomenal success in selling more than three million books has attracted envy and resentment.

"The literati don't care for the type of thing he does," says Hall.

"The kind of novel that he writes is not the sort which fits into the category of serious fiction," Courtenay rejects the dichotomy of popular and serious fiction as a literati creation and the backcover reviews of his best-known work reflect his non-elitist opinions of literature.

The Power of One has popular author Barbara Taylor Bradford and women's magazine *Cleo* quoted alongside heavyweights such as *The New York Times* and *London's Sunday Times*.

But rather than defend his work, Courtenay simply answers his critics with the words "I am a storyteller," and a cheeky smile that hardly conceals his contempt for his critics.

Courtenay's rags-to-riches life could easily come from any of his own thick novels. Born in South Africa on August 14, 1933, the illegitimate son of a poor dressmaker, Courtenay was suckled for his first two-and-a-half years by a Zulu wet nurse.

As a child, English was a forbidden language and Courtenay was often beaten by Afrikaans children for being "Rooinek" (English).

He soon learnt the guttural Afrikaans of the South African Boers with whom he lived, but also became fluent in Zulu and Swazi.

He won a scholarship to the exclusive King Edward VII School in Johannesburg, but after he was caught teaching black Africans he fled to London and the London School of Journalism.

Sitting on a park bench in London, Courtenay made a "life decision" to find a new country, one where the sky did not sit heavily on his shoulders like it did in Britain, one without the evil of class systems. He also promised himself never to do anything boring.

In 1958 he arrived in Australia aged 25 with his wife Beata. After being rejected as a journalist he entered advertising and eventually became a creative director of one of the country's largest firms, George Patterson, where his writing skills sold toilet paper and fly spray.

After 30 years in advertising, and having made his fortune, Courtenay decided at age 55 to become an author.

Courtenay's readers are obviously attracted to his extraordinary life.

The Power of One, his first book and an autobiographical account of his struggles with apartheid, has sold three million copies worldwide and been translated into 11 languages.

April Fool's Day, a story about the April 1, 1991 death of his son Damon, a hemophiliac who contracted AIDS in a blood transfusion, has also been one of his most successful books.

Last year a 40,000-reader survey saw three of Courtenay's books in the top 10 of a list of Australia's 100 "favorite books of all time" compiled by a national bookseller.

Publishers are also hooked on Courtenay, who was paid a reported A\$1.0 million (US\$664,000) for the rights to *The Power of One*, the largest advance in Australian publishing history for a first-time author. In 1997, publishers battled over Courtenay, with Penguin winning with a two-book contract reportedly worth more than A\$2.0 million.

But it is his advertising background that leaves Courtenay vulnerable to most criticism.

To promote *Tommo & Hawk*, his second book in his Australian historical trilogy, Courtenay extracted segments which would appeal to men and others to women and pub-

lished a 16-page magazine-style teaser.

Six weeks before Christmas last year, 300,000 copies of the teaser were distributed free at bus, train and ferry stations around Australia.

The self-promotion was frowned on by many authors. "They don't care for the dynamism with which he attacks the marketing process. Some people find that unappealing and not much to do with writing," says Hall.

"But selling your book these days requires every kind of effort if you are to make a dent in a crowded market. You have to get out there and pitch and that is what he does."

Courtenay defends his marketing as the historical link between writer and audience, arguing writing is not an aloof art form but "sweat under the arm pits" and belongs to the people.

"What I do seems to be enormously sensible — I go out and tell people I have a story to tell," says Courtenay.

His contract with Penguin is believed to include an aggressive marketing and distribution strategy as Courtenay says he wants his books to be available not only in book shops, but also supermarkets, groceries, news agents and hotels.

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The reign in Spain

TOWARD THE INQUISITION. Essays on Jewish and Converso History in Late Medieval Spain by B. Netanyahu. Ithaca & London, Cornell University Press. 267 pp. Price not stated.

By Alex Auswaks

The rise of the Spanish Empire, points out Professor Netanyahu, meant the end of Spanish Jewry.

Forming a uniform whole, these seven essays are concerned with the theories put forward in the last 50 years, seeking to comprehend the origins, drives and ultimate objectives of the Spanish Inquisition. Movements and individuals are studied.

It comes as no surprise that to this very day the Spanish Inquisition exercises the minds of the "best" Spanish scholars. How to explain it away?

Americo Castro put forward the view that the racial ideas of Christian Spain directed at the conversos were rooted not in Spanish but in Jewish sources. The thousands of conversos who came over injected into Spanish thinking the biblical idea of "purity of blood." Even the Spanish concept of lineage was set by its importance among the Jewish aristocracy.

In the first essay every piece of Castro's evidence is examined and refuted. Clearly the Spanish Inquisition was the product of Jewish influences, according to Castro (Castro was published by Princeton in 1954 and Berkeley in 1971).

The attempt to blame the Jews either directly or indirectly is reflected in the work of Sanchez-Albornoz (published in 1962). The Jews brought it on themselves by their behavior: emphasis on the importance of the collective rather than individual life, interest



in this world and not the after-life, preoccupation with the coming of the Messiah and (wait for it) the place we assign to Reason as a directive force in human life. If only it were true!

Was Alonso de Espina what was euphemistically known as a "New Christian"? Espina was a Franciscan preacher, headed the radical Franciscans, was a confessor to King Enrique IV of Castile, and poured fire and brimstone upon Jews and Spanish conversos, both of whom were out to destroy all Christians. According to Espina, an evil strain is intermingled in you and me. The snake was the stepfather of the Jews (through intercourse with Eve). For modern defenders of the Inquisition, it is important that he is a convert, and knows Jews and the Jewish religion from the inside. Spanish scholarship had even maintained that he was a most learned Jew. Meticulous detective work has gone into an examination of the evidence and a pointed remark to lack of scholarly caution. After all, prominent Jewish scholars had accepted the opinion that Espina was a convert. In the end it seems that Espina was not a convert, not the offspring of conversos, but an Old Christian (another lovely euphemism) full of racial hatred.

On June 5, 1449, the leaders of Toledo, claiming to be supported by all parts of the population, passed a judgment which they

claimed had the force of law, and which was the most racist of all enactments in Spain. They claimed royal privilege. Did they have real royal privilege? Meticulous detective work by Professor Netanyahu to establish whether this was so or not. They did and they didn't, but the solution to the mystery is fully disturbing.

Did Don Samuel Abravanel convert and then return? Was it a *shemad*, a forced conversion? (Would some Yiddishist let me know whether the Yiddish "shemad" himself or herself comes from this?) The issue of who is a Jew exercising us to this day. I found this the most fascinating of the seven essays. "None of these men was known in Jewry for spiritual attainments or rabbinic leadership, their place of honor in the Jewish communities must have been gained by their secular achievements or, more precisely, by their wealth, high positions, and connections with the rulers of their respective countries." Thus Professor Netanyahu.

What made Don Samuel, once a committed Jew, from a family and a people with a great past, to make a clear-cut and determined decision: "I am no longer a Jew?" Netanyahu puts forward the idea of a personal crisis and proceeds to prove his point. To do so, Netanyahu examines the period, the actions of the Spanish and those of the Jews and in particular the life, achievements and ambitions and

death sentence passed on Pichon by his fellow-Jews. When I say that this has all the elements of a soap opera I mean it in the best sense. Ambitious rulers. Majority vs. minority. The clash of Titans. Jews, high and low, wriggling like worms on the hook of the times. Great men brought low.

The conclusion is disturbing. They may not have changed. Have we?

The final essay (On the Primary Cause of the Spanish Inquisition) really ought to be read first. Up until the beginning of the 19th century, the opinion was held that it was there to uproot the heresy instituted by "Christians in name and appearance only." Towards the 19th century, when Church and kings were put under scrutiny (and occasionally under the ax, the monarchist Brits having shown the way), historians reached the conclusion that the Inquisition was there to rob some of the rich and the mighty of their authority. The Church made it possible for Jews to be the excuse. The Spanish kings felt the rising tide of antisemitism. As the old saying has it, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Religious unity under an absolutist monarchy was established. All they had to do after that was rewrite the history.

(B. Netanyahu is Emeritus Professor of Judaic Studies at Cornell University. He lives in Jerusalem. The book is dedicated to his sons, Benjamin and Iddo.)

Psychic thriller

EYES by Joseph Glass. London, Macmillan. 405pp. £9.99.

By Shai Tsur

In recent years elements of the supernatural have started to enter the genre of crime fiction. One recurrent plot deals with a person of psychic ability working to catch murderers. This idea, which shows up in the novels of Patricia Cornwell, has also spilled into the world of television, and serves as the premise for programs such as *Millennium* and *Profiler*. One can readily imagine *Eyes* as the basis for a TV series or a film. In his debut novel, Joseph Glass manages to stick to most of the psychic/detective conventions: the protagonist tracks a serial killer, only to find himself a target of the murderer; the killer stalks the psychic's family; finally, a strange bond develops between the psychic and the killer, a bond based on their positions as outsiders. Thankfully, though, the author does not allow himself to sink into predictability, and instead churns out a well-crafted thriller.

Eyes introduces us to Dr. Susan Shader, a criminal psychiatrist and divorced mother who occasionally helps the Chicago police department work on their more problematic cases. Shader has the gift of second sight, a trait which allows her to pick up traces of thoughts and feelings from objects people have touched.

Called to a murder scene, she can pick up mental impressions left behind by murder victims.

As the book opens Shader finds herself involved in a particularly grisly case. A killer has strangled three Northwestern University coeds, all athletes. After strangling his victims, the killer then cuts out her eyes. Police detective David Gold, Shader's close friend, calls her in to try to understand the symbolism of the gouged eyes and to help come up with leads before the killer strikes again.

The cat-and-mouse game begins, and Shader is drawn into it. Shader is joined by other characters, among them Aaron Lazarus, a prominent African-American political leader whose daughter becomes the killer's next target. Eventually, Shader must face the killer alone in

order to save her young son.

All this would be rather routine were it not for Glass's skill at twisting his plot. While the murder investigation initially appears straightforward, it eventually becomes clear that the serial killings are not what they might appear. The suspense heightens while the reader is kept constantly off-balance.

Alongside a crafty plotline, the book also benefits from the character of Susan Shader.

Shader's psychic abilities are as much a burden as a gift, and Glass spends a good deal of the book psychoanalyzing his protagonist. Shader's psychic ability is accompanied by feelings of intense guilt, tied to the fact that the second sight manifested itself initially after her parents' death.

While her internal torment makes Shader an interesting heroine, *Eyes* generally suffers when it comes to the other characters. The author seems not to create characters as much as archetypes. Gold, the detective, appears to carry 2,000 years of Jewish humanism and sensitivity on his shoulders, refusing to succumb to cynicism and despair despite the pain he witnesses daily. Lazarus is faultless in his quest to carry on the legacy of his mentor, Martin Luther King. Other characters have a similarly uninteresting virtuousness.

Glass spends an inordinate amount of time developing uninteresting characters, while generally ignoring the villain, Arnold Haze, the book's only other interesting figure. Haze serves as a sort of Dr. Moriarty, an evil genius who feels nothing about delving into particularly gruesome murder when the occasion calls for it. While Glass goes into mawkish depth about issues such as Gold's Jewishness, Haze remains a mystery. His schemes are elaborate, and crafty, but his motivation is not properly explained.

The flatness of the characters seems to indicate a book written with film rights in mind. Despite its outward conventionality, however, *Eyes* manages to do what a thriller should: it keeps you turning the pages. The outcome suggests that we haven't seen the last of Susan Shader, not only on the page but probably on the screen as well.

The dark humor of T. Coraghessan Boyle

RIVEN ROCK by T.C. Boyle. New York, Viking. 466 pp. \$24.95.

By Laura Demanski

In his seventh novel, *Riven Rock*, T. Coraghessan Boyle brings his hair-raising dark humor and virtuoso verbal skills to bear on a minor figure out of American industrial history. Stanley McCormick, heir to father Cyrus's harvester fortune and to a major case of misogynistic schizophrenia, lives in lifelong quarantine from women.

Meanwhile his still unmarried bride, Katherine Dexter, waits in grim devotion for his recovery. Ironically, these characters who once existed in the flesh are Boyle's most bloodless. As the

novel interweaves the story of Stanley's 30-year "rest" with the earlier history of the couple's courtship, we lose all but voyeuristic interest in these two. Stanley devolves into a bundle of sensational symptoms, Katherine the crusading suffragette into a parcel of doll virtues.

This failure to humanize the privileged has taken sharper form in Boyle's work. In some short stories and his last novel, *The Tortilla Curtain* (1995), affluent characters come in for satirical treatment of the savage and premeditated variety. Here, Boyle's approach is gentler, his intentions good — but his pen rallies noticeably when it comes to depicting Stanley's freakish behavior. And it can slow to a lazy crawl for its leading lady, as

in this dismal short capturing her emotional condition: "All her life Katherine Dexter had been disappointed in men." The real life in this novel is elsewhere. After attacking the wife he worships, Stanley is spirited away to the family estate in California (Riven Rock), where a parade of psychiatrists variously, sometimes hilariously, leads the quest for a cure. Traveling from Boston in Stanley's entourage is a young male nurse steeped in dreams of fairer fortune in the Golden State. At some moments the gurgling and impressionable Eddie O'Kane seems something that looked into a funhouse mirror to produce Stanley McCormick. Married too young, he experiences and acts on the full range of emotional reactions to women,

from helpless lust to helpless tenderness to an anger that can vent itself in violence, although it remains a pale version of Stanley's rage.

The only character who learns and grows through the novel, Eddie sacrifices much but finally manages to attain what Stanley and Katherine never can. Too bad his story plays second fiddle to the arid saga of their star-crossed love.

Fortunately, Boyle is such a good writer that you don't need to care deeply about the McCormicks in order to enjoy *Riven Rock*. Addicted to metaphors, he has a summer for every description.

Pedestrians under umbrellas? "Like so many wilted toad-

stools." The scar on a man's face? "Like a trail of dried spittle or the glittering track a slug leaves on the pavement, silvery and ever so faintly luminescent." Typically, touchingly, Boyle wears his love of language on his sleeve.

Americana is another salutary passion with Boyle. However flat some of the characters within, the material world depicted here, from motorcar culture to speakies, shines forth in color and variety.

With so many of the pieces in place, *Riven Rock* frustrates, but instills hope. If Boyle can write this accomplished a novel with an Eddie O'Kane at its center rather than a Stanley McCormick, it might well be a great American novel.

(The Baltimore Sun)

STEINATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. American Pastoral by Philip Roth. Vintage.
2. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. Touchstone.
3. Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier. Scribner, Vintage.
4. God: A Biography by Jack Miles. Touchstone.
5. Visitors by Anita Brookner. Penguin.
6. Polgara the Sorceress by David Eddings. Del Rey.
7. The Partner by John Grisham. Dell, Arrow.
8. Necessary Madness by Jenn Crowell. Warner, Coronet.
9. Serpent's Tooth by Faye Kellerman. Headline, Avon.
10. An Instance of the Fingergrip by Iain Pears. Vintage.

Also available from the Jerusalem Post Book Club. Tel: 02-537-8377 Fax: 02-537-8372 E-mail: orders@jpost.co.il

BOOK BYTES

For gardeners, the death of Michael Christopher Philip, at 70, is an occasion for mourning. Since the first appearance in 1987 of his compilation *The Plant Finder*, the book has become an indispensable bible for plant lovers. The idea behind the book was supremely simple: A list of plants and shrubs, and where to obtain them from among Britain's thousands of nurseries. *The Plant Finder*, published by the Royal Horticultural Society and selling over 40,000 copies a year, has burgeoned from a list of 20,000 to 70,000 plants in its 11 years of publication. It is not only a buyers' guide, but also a highly respected arbiter on the thorny issues of plant nomenclature.

Philip, who was born into a firm of atlas publishers, eschewed the family business to go into electronics. He later branched out into recording and television. In 1962 he became a theatrical agent with a reputation for toughness and determination. Then, while on a holiday to Malta a few years later, he witnessed a grand fireworks display. His sudden decision to import fireworks into Britain and turn himself into a pyrotechnics impresario initially met with official objections, but he overcame all obstacles. In addition to organizing spectacular displays all over the world, he built up a huge library of books on fireworks, and published a unique bibliography of fireworks literature.

His interest in gardening began when he and his gay partner of 45 years bought a country house with six acres (24 dunams) of land. The previous owner, a daffodil collector, had dug up all his bulbs, leaving the garden "a bar-ba-las, leaving the garden a bar-ba-las waste." To his great frustration, Philip discovered that there was no comprehensive guide to plants and their suppliers. So he wrote over 2,000 nurseries for

their catalogues. Working long hours at the computer compiling his guide is said to have contributed to his poor eyesight, and possibly the brain tumor that brought on his death.

DR. ALEX SARANIN, 78, a Russian immigrant to Australia and a world authority on the sugar industry, recently published his autobiography, *Child of the Kulaks* (U. of Queensland Press). Caught up in the aftermath of the 1917 Russian Revolution, Saranin's parents were arrested, but his mother managed to escape to China. Alex and his older brother Genya were left behind in their Ural Mountain home with grandparents. When Alex was 10 and Genya was 17, they set out to cross Siberia in an epic attempt to find their mother. Genya died on the 7,500 km. journey, but Alex was reunited with his mother in China, where he lived for 18 years. He eventually reached Australia after being refused entry into the US (the CIA considered him "a security risk"), and earned a PhD in chemical engineering from Queensland University. Saranin was recently honored by Governor-General Sir William Slim for his achievements.

POET SIMON Armitage, author of *CloudCuckooLand* and writer-in-residence at Leeds University in England, let the cat out of the bag when he confessed to sending a reviewer a pig's heart through the mail. According to the story in *The Telegraph* newspaper, the reviewer's own words inspired the poet's irate act of vengeance. The less than enthusiastic critique of Armitage's first volume of verse ended with the words, "But at least Armitage's heart is in the right place."

David Brauner

The New York Times

BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. The Street Lawyer by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$27.95.) A young lawyer discovers his prestigious firm's dirty secret.
2. Pandora by Anne Rice. (Knopf \$19.95.) A 200-year-old vampire recounts her experiences.
3. Paradise by Toni Morrison. (Knopf \$25.) A small Black utopia in rural Oklahoma experiences tragedy and regeneration when it encounters the real world.
4. Homeport by Nora Roberts. (Putnam \$23.95.) An art expert's troubles lead her to seek counsel from a thief.
5. Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
6. Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$25.) The life of a young woman in prewar Kyoto.
7. Blood Work by Michael Connelly. (Little Brown \$23.95.) A retired FBI agent undertakes to solve the murder of an ailing woman's sister.
8. Toxin by Robin Cook. (Putnam \$24.95.) When his daughter becomes seriously ill after eating fast food, a physician takes on a hospital and the meat industry.
9. Black and Blue by Anna Quindlen. (Random House \$23.) After her husband turns violent, a woman flees to Florida with her young son.
10. An Instance of the Fingergrip by Iain Pears. (Riverhead \$27.) The murder of an Oxford don in the 17th century.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. Talking to Heaven by James Van Praagh. (Dutton \$22.) A "world-famous medium" discusses communication with the other side.
2. Spin Cycle by Howard Kurtz. (Free Press \$25.) A journalist reports on how the Clinton propaganda machine deals with scandals and the press.
3. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
4. Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95.) A sportswriter tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor.
5. The Millionaire Next Door by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22.) Wealthy Americans have seven characteristics in common.
6. Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Burt Foster. (Random House \$23.) Mysterious death in Savannah, Ga.
7. The Man Who Listens to Horses by Monty Roberts. (Random House \$23.) The memoirs of a professional horse trainer.
8. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
9. Conversations with God: Book 1 by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) The author addresses questions of good and evil, guilt and sin.
10. The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. (Norton \$23.95.) An account of the nor'easter of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. The Partner by John Grisham. (Island/Dell \$7.95.) The pursuit of \$80 million stolen by a Mississippi lawyer.
2. Here on Earth by Alice Hoffman. (Bantam \$13.) Returning to her Massachusetts hometown after 19 years, a woman encounters her old love.
3. Evening Class by Maeve Binchy. (Dell \$7.50.) Secrets, aspirations, and passions surface during a course in Italian at a Dublin school.
4. Chromosome by Robin Cook. (Berkley \$7.50.) The missing liver of a corpse floating in a river may provide clues to a criminal's murder.
5. The Ranch by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$7.50.) Three women who were college roommates come to terms with themselves at a Wyoming resort.
6. Fatal Terrain by Dale Brown. (Berkley \$7.95.) The US Air Force contends with China after it launches an attack on Taiwan.
7. The Maze by Catherine Coulter. (Jove \$7.50.) A woman, determined to locate her sister's killer, finds herself to be his new target.
8. Primary Colors by Anonymous. (Warner \$6.99.) The progress of a Southern governor and his wife on their way to the White House.
9. Public Secrets by Nora Roberts. (Bantam \$6.50.) The troubled yet romantic life of the illegitimate daughter of a rock idol.
10. The Genesis Code by John Case. (Ballantine \$6.99.) A detective's sister and nephew are two of the victims in a series of mysterious deaths.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. James Cameron's Titanic by Ed W. Marsh. Photographs by Douglas Kirkland. (Harper Perennial \$20.) A lavishly illustrated account of the making of the film.
2. A Night to Remember by Walter Lord. (Bantam \$5.99.) A historian's account of the Titanic disaster.
3. Leonardo DiCaprio: Modern-Day Romeo by Grace Catalano. (Laurel/Leaf/Dell \$4.99.) The life of the film actor.
4. The Leonardo DiCaprio Album by Brian J. Robb. (Plexus/Publishers Group West \$15.95.) A biography.
5. Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
6. Leonardo DiCaprio: A Biography by Nancy Krulik. (Archway/Pocket \$4.50.) The life of the actor.
7. Spontaneous Healing by Andrew Weil. (Fawcett \$12.95.) How the body heals itself.
8. The Night Lives On by Walter Lord. (Avon \$6.99.) A historian looks at the Titanic disaster.
9. The Color of Water by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A Black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother.
10. A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95.) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
3. The Beanie Baby Handbook 1998 by Les Fox and Sue Fox. (West Highland \$6.95.) A new edition and a guide for collectors of the toys.
4. Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul compiled by Jack Canfield et al. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspirational stories.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom by Suze Orman. (Crown \$23.) Ways to manage your money for now and in the future.
2. Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
3. Eight Weeks to Optimum Health by Andrew Weil. (Knopf \$23.) A physician's diet, exercise and psychological program.
4. Eat Right 4 Your Type by Peter J. D'Adamo with Catherine Whitney. (Putnam \$22.95.) Diets to suit each of the four blood types.

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Unanswered questions

The claims and counterclaims surrounding the circumstances of the explosion which last week killed Mubir Sharif, the most wanted Hamas terrorist, have proliferated to such a confusing extent that even the experts are still scratching their heads wondering what exactly happened. The attempts to peel back the layers of unanswered questions and disinformation must not, however, be allowed to overshadow the main message that needs to be conveyed to the Palestinian Authority: diligence in the fight against terrorism is critical to any further progress in the peace process.

The full truth about how Sharif was killed and whether it was an accident or a deliberate assassination may never be known. There are simply too many different interested parties involved, each attempting to gain as much political capital from Sharif's death as possible, while concealing any facts that might be uncomfortable.

The scene of the explosion was not treated with anywhere near the forensic standards routine in most Western countries during criminal and security investigations. Key items of evidence were moved or tampered with, or have disappeared. Confessions supposedly taken from individuals in the custody of the Palestinian Police have never had much credibility, given the interrogation tactics it is known to employ. The PA has reportedly arrested even the pathologist who wrote the initial report on Sharif's death, perhaps in an attempt to prevent him from revealing important facts. Neither can statements made by Sharif's relatives be given too much weight, given the enormous pressure they must surely be under from the Hamas leadership.

Unanswered questions abound. Even the source of the explosion remains unclear: was it in the car or in the bomb factory nearby? Although the car was completely destroyed, it appeared to have been flattened, indicating an external explosion rather than an internal one that would have blown it into numerous pieces. This would work against the theory that Sharif was shot to death and then placed in an explosives-packed automobile. On the other hand, if Sharif was blown up in an accident while preparing a bomb in the car, his face and hands should have been severely injured, yet his face remained intact enough to be displayed during his funeral procession.

Nor has a reasonable explanation been proffered as to why it took days and the transfer of the body to Israeli authorities for the identity of the terrorist

to be determined, given the limited damage to the face and the fact that Sharif was No. 1 on the most-wanted terrorist list. And the source of the bullets reportedly found in the body is also still a mystery.

What is important to note is that the event has revealed fissures — among the Palestinians, between the PA and Hamas, and within Hamas itself — that had previously been kept from public attention. The PA and Hamas had appeared initially to be working together to blame Sharif's death on Israeli agents. It was only after *The Jerusalem Post* revealed Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi's suggestion that Sharif was tortured and killed by the PA that the disputes began appearing. The next day the PA completely changed its previous anti-Israeli tone in the matter and turned on Hamas, producing what it claimed was evidence that Sharif was "rubbed out" in an internal Hamas struggle over the leadership of the terrorist organization.

The ensuing perplexity within Hamas indicated that there are indeed deep differences between its various components, primarily the internal leadership versus the leadership abroad, on such questions as the extent of continued terrorist activity. It would seem that with Hamas preoccupied with these questions, this would be the right time for PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to take decisive action to shut down its terrorist infrastructure. Even Rantisi has stated, in an interview granted to Aaron Lerner of IMRA, that Hamas will not clash with the PA and will refuse to "sow Palestinian conflict." But Arafat is apparently still treating Hamas with a velvet glove, as evidenced by IDF intelligence reports.

Arafat may be unwilling to risk any possibility of setting off a Palestinian civil war, or he might be reckoning that the pressure on Israel from Hamas terrorist attacks are a strategic asset for him at the negotiating table. In any case, the message must continue to be broadcast to Arafat that the progress he wants in negotiations is predicated on a serious fight against terrorism: based on the idea that terrorism is wrong, because the Palestinians have taken a fundamental decision to reject terror, and that nothing less than conclusive actions reflecting this can be accepted.

On the other hand, if Rantisi's suspicions do turn out to be true, and it was the PA which was behind Sharif's well earned death, then Arafat has faced his *Altalena*. In that case, he deserves to be rewarded in a suitable manner by Israel in the context of the continuing negotiations over the second redeployment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MIND-BOGGLING INCONGRUITY

Sir, — In much of the media, in Israel and abroad, the current Israeli government is forever being accused of deploying delaying tactics in the peace process, or even worse, of attempting to "kill" the process altogether. The Palestinians, on the other hand, are generally depicted as the compromising party, the genuine peace makers, ready to overcome the differences and obstacles in order to achieve harmony in the Middle East.

How come, then, that internationally known and wanted bomb makers such as Ayyash the "Engineer" and his successor

Sharif, are regarded as heroes by the peace seeking Palestinians? And how can one explain that these ruthless killers are elevated to the ranks of "martyrs" by key Palestinian officials who attend their funerals?

Does this display of admiration and respect to terrorists show a genuine Palestinian commitment to peace, or does it rather reflect a serious predicament when it comes to condemning terror? And why are we turning a blind eye to our "partners" ambivalence?

One cannot fight terrorism with words and not support it with

actions.

Those whose mission in life is to blow up innocent people in New York buildings and Israeli cafes should be condemned by all, and their disappearance from the face of this earth welcomed by all. Only when Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people agree that terrorism is a war-like political act worthy of severe punishment, will the real dialogue between Israelis and Arabs have begun.

DR. ESTHER KLEIN-WOHL
Ra'anana

EXCLUSIVE EXAMPLES

Sir, — As a "university-trained immigrant" Jonathan Rosenblum in "Teach your children" (March 27), has every right to be concerned about his children's education and instilling them with a sense of Klal Yisrael, but then so have we all, university trained or not, new immigrant or not.

However to cite as examples of Klal Yisrael only those of haredim is unworthy of him.

Henrietta Szold and Rebecca

Sieff, Eli Amir, Janus Korchak and others too numerous to mention, contributed to saving children, providing homes, educating and building institutions which have ameliorated the lives of hundreds of thousands of our people.

Does Rosenblum know that in Netanyahu, the Friends of Laniado do not support the hospital out of religious motivation (some of them are even Meretz supporters) but because the hospital and Yad

Sarahi is an integral part of our society and because we are Klal Yisrael. Living in a democracy may be difficult for some of us but if our values are right and we can stop being so judgmental, we may yet build an exemplary society in which Rosenblum's children and those of the rest of us can play their part, together.

ZELDA HARRIS
Netanya.

A FEW QUESTIONS

Eurosport and NBC, as well as other foreign channels, will not meet the same fate?

Secondly, why was Sky One replaced by the non-English "Channel Z" and not with an English channel? Similarly, the German Pro 7 channel was removed from our screens, apparently due to its high content of soft core pornography. Why was this channel replaced by a Russian channel and not with a German alternative?

Lastly, do our cable TV operators enter into any contracts with foreign cable operators or are they just feeding us whatever they can glean

free of charge? If the latter, why are we paying so much and, if paying is the order of the day, why are we not offered additional "pay" channels?

In closing, some time ago, Tommy Lapid of *Yedioth Achrona* fame pointed out that another monopoly had been created with the enfranchising of the cable TV operators. Is the time not right to review the restriction placed on Bezeq from broadcasting satellite TV? After all, Bezeq is being forced to be competitive, surely so should be with the cable TV monopoly.

FRANK D. BERMAN
Karmiel.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 9, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported from Germany that Herr Hitler's policy of "eradication of Jews" continued unabated. Jewish employees were dismissed wholesale and Jewish firms, shops, lawyers and doctors closed their offices. In his speech, Hitler emphasized that Germany could only redeem its own cultural position by eradicating Jewish influence.

50 years ago: On April 9, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the commander-in-chief of the Arab forces in and around Jerusalem, Abdul Kader Hussein, was killed on Castel and that in the wake of a five-day long battle, the commander of the Arab invading Yarmouk Army sent truce feelers

to the defenders of Mishmar Haemek. There was a six-hour mortar attack on Tel Aviv.

25 years ago: On April 9, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Cabinet decided to maintain the prohibition against Israelis or foreigners privately buying land in the administered areas.

Alexander Zivkii



Soul number 600,001

As Jews around the world celebrate Pesach this weekend, we are in awe once more at the courage and leadership qualities of Moses, that giant among men of all people and all time.

His heroism, against all odds, as he led 600,000 souls out of slavery to freedom will reverberate during the seder tomorrow night.

Whether he was divinely driven or motivated by the dictum that God helps those who help themselves is irrelevant. What matters is that the joy of Jews will be tinged with remorse and regret that two Israeli citizens, one a Jew and the other a non-Jew, languish in captivity. Not for them is the sweetness of liberty to be savored in the company of dear ones tomorrow.

One of the captives is Azzam Azzam, the Druse who the Egyptians jailed and convicted on trumped-up charges of being a Mossad spy. Everyone knows he is innocent.

The Israeli government promised to do everything possible to free him. That promise is so far unfulfilled a fact which brings credit to no one in authority in the Jewish state.

So let us now turn to the shameful case of former Mossad agent Jonathan Pollard, incarcerated for 13 years in American prisons. When he realized that then-US defense secretary, Caspar Weinberger was failing to inform Israel of key information that was vital to its security, (as agreed by treaty), Pollard decided to do his duty as a Jew.

Knowing that he was risking his future and freedom, Pollard, who worked as US naval intelligence officer, volunteered to give Israel vital information that passed through his hands. So important was the data concerning the build-up of unconventional weapons of destruction by Syria and Iraq, that a

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

four-man Mossad team let by Rafi Eitan handled the naval documents provided by Pollard.

A year later, in 1985, he was arrested. Shimon Peres was prime minister in a national unity government. Yitzhak Rabin was defense minister. Both men were in a panic. They feared that an outraged US administration would damage relations between the two countries.

The government should grant Pollard his Mossad badge and help him take a step on his private march from captivity to freedom in the promised land

A craven decision was taken to pretend that they knew nothing of the operation. Thus was spawned the myth that Pollard was part of a "rogue operation." Rafi Eitan took the fall for the government by agreeing to take full blame for the fake set-up.

Peres and Rabin were not the only government chiefs who refused to accept responsibility for their man. Moshe Arens had been defense minister when Pollard was recruited, the previous year. All three men surely read the vast quantity of documents that Pollard gave to Eitan clearly.

They would and could have halted the entire operation if they thought it was part of a "rogue operation." That they were happy to use the information to ensure Israel's security is noble. To pretend other-

wise was and is to this day ignoble. Yitzhak Shamir's declaration that "a country must know how to sacrifice a man," underscores the immorality of the act which to this day has left Pollard rotting in a US prison. And as Shamir was part of the government which hid its complicity behind Rafi Eitan's smoke-screen, his conscience will surely be reminded of his part in the affair.

The decision which Pollard has undertaken to the writers of this column is the miserable smokescreen that he was part of a "rogue operation." This enables the US intelligence community to insist that Pollard was a maverick who must remain behind bars.

The moment that Pollard is seen as an official Mossad agent, pressure for his release can be applied on the White House to free him. Even the timid US Jews might issue a tiny squeak of their own.

True, Limor Livnat weeps for Pollard in his cell. True, other ministers now also visit him in captivity. But why does the government not let the word of truth ring out and say: "Pollard was our man, a Mossad agent?"

This day, of all days, when the leadership of Moses fills the hearts of every Jew everywhere, is it not time for our leaders to follow in his footsteps? To cease fooling around and embrace Jonathan Pollard as soul number 600,001. Grant him his Mossad badge, and help him take a step on his private march from captivity to freedom in the promised land.

Pollard told us yesterday, "There is no point in Netanyahu sending letters to President Clinton. I am informed that Washington will pay no attention until Israel sends an unequivocal and public message that I was a sanctioned Latham agent working for Israel."

"All I ask is for Israel at long last to tell the truth."

A questionable future

ISI LEIBLER

They reflected, rather, the sociological phenomenon of American Jews seeking a new community structure in which belonging to a non-Orthodox denomination provides a more attractive and comfortable vehicle for Jewish identification than ethnic affiliation to Israel — now considered by many American Jews as a "foreign" state.

The bad news is that even Jewish

The threats to reduce ties with Israel can only harm American Jews themselves

education, as a broad-brush concept isolated from religious observance, cannot offer much hope for a rollback of the sweeping assimilationist trends now underway. We are just beginning to understand how truly difficult it is in an open and liberal society to deter young Jewish people from marrying non-Jewish spouses, unless there are fundamental religious issues inhibiting such a union.

If the Diaspora is facing a crisis, that is not to say that Israel itself is immune to assimilation although I remain passionately committed to the belief that the Jewish people will overcome this challenge.

Quite apart from the acute divisions between Orthodox and secular Israeli Jews, whom the rabbis never-theless recognize as halachically Jewish, there are now tens of thousands of immigrants — halachically non-Jews — who are citizens of a Jewish state. They speak Hebrew, regard Israel as their homeland, and serve in the army — in contrast to the haredim who are, in many cases, anti-Zionist and refuse to serve in the army or even in alternative forms of national service.

But the immigrants and their children represent a time bomb ticking away in the "Who is a Jew?" arena which is potentially even more explosive than the one also counting down in many Christian-Jewish households in some of the non-

Orthodox sectors of American Jewry.

This problem is accentuated by the fact that the demonization of one another by religious and secular Israelis is now more acute than ever. The hard-line Orthodox establishment in Israel has become increasingly more intolerant and has substituted fanaticism and extremism in religious practice and in politics for moderation and balance.

In the secular educational stream, the non-religious government school system provides less traditional Jewish content, or even Zionist content, than ever. Combine that with fading memories amongst younger Israelis about the Shoah and their Zionist history, and some of the harshest critics are speaking of the new age's "Hebrew-speaking Canaanite yuppies."

While Israel is rapidly emerging as the demographic as well as the Jewish people's cultural and religious center, it is also grappling with the impact of globalization and Americanization — often the same thing — and the accompanying marked loss of Yiddishkeit, a phrase that would be foreign, literally and conceptually, to most young Israelis.

It is an almost geometric progression that makes it even harder for young Diaspora Jews, themselves under identical pressures from globalization and other forces, to maintain a non-religious based Jewish identity. In such circumstances, the scenario of a shrunken Diaspora dominated by a small number of observant Jews will come to pass sooner rather than later.

Which is why there is something intrinsically nonsensical about a disintegrating American Jewry demanding parity with Israel in deciding matters of Jewish identity. The threats to reduce ties with Israel can only harm American Jews themselves and dilute the most important remaining force that still contributes toward Jewish identity beyond the religious commitment.

Should American Jewry continue along its current path, the long-term future for the Diaspora as a whole is highly questionable. For it is Israel's centrality for the future of any Jewish condition, despite the challenges facing Israeli society, which is the most enduring feature of our time.

Because they were Jews

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

A visit to the synagogue in Athens brought home to me the uniqueness of the Holocaust in a very special way. There were many very old Jews in the synagogue. There were also some young Jews. But there were no Jews my age.

I was born in 1938 and was six years old when the Nazis deported virtually the entire Jewish population of Greece to Auschwitz for extermination. Almost no children survived.

Human beings have done awful things to other human beings over the millennia of recorded history. During the Crusades, Christians murdered Jews, Moslems and pagans who would not accept Jesus. During the Turkish genocide against the Armenians, ethnic cleansing resulted in numerous deaths. The Cambodians, the Japanese and the Spanish killed countless innocent civilians. But never before the Holocaust did a nation travel so far to bring so many to their death.

The situation of Greek Jewry exemplifies why the Holocaust was truly genocide. When Italy occupied Greece during the early days of World War II, they did not systematically murder the Jewish population. But with the downfall of Mussolini, Germany moved into Greece.

By that time the war was essentially over. Germany was well on its way to defeat. But the Nazis had one job to complete before they surrendered. They had to murder every Jew they could get their hands on.

The Gestapo searched out every Jew in every small village of Greece. They even went to the islands. In Rhodes, where Jews had lived peacefully for more than a thousand years, the entire Jewish population was deported to Auschwitz, and only a handful survived.

Two words exemplify the differ-

The killing of babies could serve no purpose other than to end the seed of the Jewish people

ence between the Holocaust and other horrors inflicted by human beings on other human beings. These two words are "ingathering" and "babies."

Never before has a conquering power gone to such lengths to ingather those it wanted to kill from such faraway places as Rhodes.

The Jews of Rhodes were not in the way of German expansion. They were not hindering German military progress. They were not needed as slave laborers. And yet the Germans diverted considerable resources from their war efforts to bring these helpless people, many of them old and infirm, to Auschwitz for the sole purpose of killing them. They did not spare even the youngest among them. The killing of babies could serve no purpose other than to end the seed of the Jewish people.

The tragedy is that the Nazis succeeded in places like Greece. For thousands of years, Jews lived as equal citizens in the cities, towns and islands. And then, in a period of months, they were all murdered. There is now almost no Jewish presence on the island of Rhodes or in other places where thousands of Jews quietly practiced their religion in hundreds of synagogues.

The Germans had two goals in waging their war against humanity. One was to conquer the world militarily. That goal failed. The other was to destroy European Jewry. That goal essentially succeeded.

Despite the uniqueness of the Nazi evil, the vast majority of those who implemented it were never punished. Many, such as Kurt Waldheim, who became secretary-general of the United Nations, were honored.

Now that the vast majority of hands-on perpetrators are dead, apologies galore are appearing. The Vatican, the Red Cross, the Swiss banks, the bishops of France and Germany, and numerous other organizations are all seeking forgiveness. But forgiveness without punishment will only assure repetition.

And the lessons have not been learned, as I was reminded when I sought to attend synagogue services in Istanbul. I needed to make advance arrangements for security reasons. It was in Istanbul that Arab terrorists shot 22 Jews who were praying on the Sabbath. Why? Because they were Jews.

Then I picked up the newspaper and saw a picture of Yasser Arafat leaving the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Was it not the same Arafat who personally ordered the mass murder of Jewish children in Ma'alot, on airplanes and on beaches? Had Anne Frank survived the Holocaust, her children might have been among those whom Arafat ordered killed. Why? Because they were Jews.

(United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

مكتبة الأنجلو

Weekender

Red, White 'n' Blues

Kevin Williams is one of a host of foreign musicians who will be joining local acts at the Tel Aviv Black and Blues Festival

By STEVE RODAN

As Kevin Williams looks out at the Tel Aviv sunrise, he wonders how a soul singer from Los Angeles got here. It all had to do with getting mixed up with a bunch of Israeli musicians who were doing some funk tracks.

Summer Aaron Yedidya needed a singer to cut vocals, and the two men were soon swapping original funk tunes. Before Williams knew it, he was invited to the Tel Aviv Black and Blues Festival, which runs from April 10-12 at the Enav Cultural Center of the Tel Aviv Municipality.

"The stuff that we wrote for the record was a recording project," Williams says. "We never played it live. So I came 6,000 miles to play some songs. It was worth it. I'm amazed that we hooked up."

Williams joins a host of other foreign and local blues and funk artists. These include American blues singer Shirley Johnson, who will front the Israeli all-woman rhythm and blues band Bella Donna; Trinidad singer Hilary Swann; the Israeli Chicago-style band Daily Blues; the Israeli Jamaican singer Silver Don; and a gospel choir composed of Black Hebrews from Dimona.

There will also be Israeli bands playing jazz fusion, Delta blues, and flamenco jazz.

Williams recalls being skeptical when he met Yedidya in Los Angeles last year. Williams had been singing gospel and blues since he was two years old in church. What did Israelis know about black man's music?

"He [Yedidya] said, 'I have some very funky tunes and I said, 'Yeah, right.' Williams says. "He played these tunes and it just blew me away. I had just broke up with my wife and I went back home and wrote a tune. We ended up making a record with like 11 tunes. We sent it here and got a great response and set up a tour here."

Actually, the resulting CD has 10 tunes by Williams and Yedidya, most of them in a soulful style, with such titles as "Love Vibe," "What Are We Doin' Here?" and "Cinderella."

Williams has a silky voice that reminds a listener of the best of the 1970s funk. Check out these lyrics by Yedidya: "Give it up. You get me messin' with my mind. Give it up. You get me horny all the time."

This cat is Israeli and he grew up on American funk and he really got it," Williams says of Yedidya. "His brother, Rafi, plays bass. They're awesome. They know the funkist players in Israel. We've been rehearsing and it sounds great."

Williams' roots come from church, when he sang "Jesus, we love you," in choir. At 13, he was singing "Alfie" at a church ladies' auxiliary meeting. His friend played saxophone and Williams did several James Brown splits.

For me, Marvin Gaye was the one," he recalls. "When I was growing up, my mom played Sam Cooke. James Brown. I think he's the Mozart of our time. My grandfather would play Muddy Waters. It was like Jimi Hendrix. It was beyond my reach and a bit experimental."

The church performance marked the start of a new stage in Williams' show business career. He and his friend formed a band to compete in his junior high school talent contest in Los Angeles.

"We played and the kids wouldn't let us off stage," Williams



Soul singer Kevin Williams says it was worth coming '6,000 miles to play some songs.'

recalls. "And we only played one song. We didn't want to just get off stage, so we jammed on the song 'Higher' by Sly and the Family Stone. We won \$10 for the talent show. The principal gave us another \$10 to stay off the campus, saying we can't go back to class now. That was great. We got paid and stayed away from school."

The valley came during Williams' years in college in Kansas. The midwestern life didn't suit him and soon he was back pounding the sidewalks of L.A., looking for a club to hang out in.

That club was the On. By 1981, Williams started a ska reggae band with his college roommate, a drummer. In 1985, he joined the Bone Daddies and became a regional sensation, putting out four records and touring 200 days a year. He performed with such supergroups as Santana, the Neville Brothers, and Blues Travelers.

The mentor of Williams' group was Bill Graham, the legendary rock producer. His idea was to start a record label with his favorite group, which would

include the Bone Daddies. Graham, however, died and the whole project fell apart. Williams saw it was time to leave. "I quit the band and needed to find a new direction," he says. "We formed Solsonics, got signed by EMI, toured the world three times with the Fugees."

Once again, bad luck struck. A video date set by the band with a leading producer went awry and the project unraveled, followed by the break-up of the band.

Finally, came the Israeli connection. Williams started a band called Butterflow. He liked the word "butter" because it was a description many of his admirers used when referring to his voice.

A friend tipped him off about a band of Israelis who were playing funk at some L.A. bar. "I checked them out and they were real good," he says. "It was through those guys that I met Aaron."

Butterflow is keyboardist Ari Selma, tenor saxophonist Ofra Ankori, Derek Davis, flute and sax. And, of course, Aaron and Rafi Yedidya. The CD ends with

an Aaron tune, "Blood Brother."

"Some people are full of bad intentions. Don't you know we all got to be free. Too many of us hating and lying. And you know too many brothers are dying. We're all the same under the skin. Same me. Same thirst within. We've got to live together. Why don't we learn and live positively. You're my blood. You're my blood. Blood Brother."

Williams takes it one day at a time. "In L.A., the competition is so fierce," he says.

"You know, man, music is freedom for me. It's kind of what I do. If I wasn't singing with somebody, I would be at home. Music gives me energy. If you're a painter, you're in a room doing it by yourself. You never know if you're good. But when you play music, it's immediate," he says.

"There was a couple times when I tried to quit but they called me and said are you crazy - we're trying to start a band. And I said I'm going to start a grocery store."

Williams is not thinking about stocking the dairy case these days. He's working and, unlike the last

decade of music, the '90s have meant variety.

"The '90s have been good," he says. "I started to sing in electric bands in the '70s. Then, you were either a hippie or a square. Now, you can be into ska or funk. You have a choice."

Williams sees himself as a funk original. In his performance on Tuesday, he will sing Sly, Camero, Parliament and Funkadelic.

"They don't make music like they used to," he says. "The kids want to make music but they don't know how."

Those Israelis who are hanging around his rehearsals at Tel Aviv's Camelot Club appear to agree. And, in between these sessions, Israeli festival organizers are introducing him to the elite, including Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo.

The thought makes Williams chuckle. "The only time I met with the mayor in L.A. is when I was in jail or something," he says. "Being a Black American, every time I leave the country I feel I'm the real thing. I feel fortunate that I was born in America."

Jerusalem

Meir Ariel offers vocalic nostalgia for pre-Pessah entertainment, in an evening of his past and current songs at the Pargod Theater on Bezael Street. Beginning at 9:30 p.m., call (02) 623-1765.

Out of its natural habitat in Tel Aviv, Bat Sheva Dance Company honors Jerusalem tonight with a performance of its long-running hit, *Mabul* ("Flood") 9 p.m., at the Jerusalem Theater.

And Points Beyond

Kapulski's cafe is the venue tonight for Ramat Gan residents seeking nostalgia in musical form. Itzik Stein sings all-time favorite songs of the Land of Israel, starting at 10 p.m., 146 Abba Hillel St. Call (03) 575-2473.

A full range of theater is available in the north tonight: the Cameri's slapstick comedy *Mr. Wolf* plays tonight at the North

Theater ("Teatron Hazafon") in Kiryat Haim, at 8:30 p.m., 41 Rechov Beilinson.

At the Acre Theater, the first segment of a work called *Kohelet*, entitled *Muhrach Lehiyot Sameach* ("We Must Be Happy") is showing tonight at 8:30 p.m., 1 Weizman St., (04) 991-9634.

Television

Tonight's rather serious movie choices include the masterful, landmark film of the '70s, *Deer Hunter*. This is a blunt look at mainstream working class American life in the face of America's most psychologically traumatizing war. It stars Robert DeNiro and Christopher Walken, who are ideal for the roles. ITV3, at 9:15 p.m.

Basquiat (1996), on the Movie Channel at 10 p.m., stars David Bowie, Dennis Hopper, Gary Oldman, Willem Dafoe and Courtney Love in a dark film about the life (and early death) of the artist of the same name.

Remembering Zichron

By AMY KLEIN

During World War I, while under Turkish rule, the town of Zichron Ya'acov was the center of Nili, a Jewish underground movement founded by the Aharonson family. They fed the British military secrets about the enemy Turks. Today, their family home is a museum in Zichron Ya'acov.

During that period, the townsmen would gather in a circle in the center of town and discuss the town's affairs until their wives came to drag them home. Thus the spot became known as "haraedel." In Yiddish, *raedel* means "wheel," as well as "to talk these days."

Today the women go with - not after - the menfolk to Haraedel, a piano bar/restaurant in Zichron Ya'acov named after the legendary site. The restaurant stands near the original location of the raedel - which stopped being a meeting place 50 years ago.

Today's Haraedel is a tribute to this piece of Zichron's history. Its walls are lined with pictures of people and buildings from the Zichron of 100 years ago, from the Turkish and the British mandates, all framed in old windows.

Gadi Ramon opened the bar two years ago. Though not a Zichron native, he wanted to dedicate his place to the rich history of Zichron. "People come into the bar and often find relatives like great grandparents, or great, great grandparents in the pictures," he says.

The quiet atmosphere in the restaurant is a far cry from the raucous discussions that once characterized the original in the early days. Zichron was founded in 1882 as an agricultural settlement, which later came under the patronage of the Baron Edmund de Rothschild. (The tomb of the Baron and his wife is located there, surrounded by a beautiful memorial garden.) Today, with its cobblestoned pedestrian walkway and population of 7,000, Zichron is reminiscent of a small European town.

Like Zichron, Haraedel is quaint. The homey atmosphere comes from the dim lights and the wooden bar and furniture. The food is a tasty hodgepodge of Middle Eastern dishes, salads, soups and sandwiches, which are all reasonably priced.

The musical fare is a bit of a hodgepodge as well. Every Tuesday night there is a jazz ensemble. On Thursdays there are Israeli singers with piano accompaniment. And on Friday nights there's classical music. On the last Wednesday of every month, Haraedel hosts American folk music. Prices range from NIS 8-15.

Every Friday afternoon there's an open market in the square outside, where vendors sell artwork, clothing, jewelry, home-made foods, etc. The market will be open during the whole week of Pessah.

Also for the week of Pessah, Zichron is hosting a storytellers' festival throughout the town. During the day, children's storytellers will spin their tales. At night, professional storytellers like Yosef Hamisaper will perform for the grown-ups. Haraedel will be hosting Council head Yishai Shibovsky, who will recount the story of "Zichron of long ago."

Haraedel is open daily from 7 p.m. through the night, and all day Friday and Saturday.

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Hot tips

By DANILIA SCHENDLIN

Tel Aviv

Don't hesitate to go to the opera tonight: it's free! Billed as an opera for the whole family, the New Israel Opera presents Rossini's comedy *La Cenerentola* (otherwise known as Cinderella) at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center in a special, everyone's-invited performance.

For those who can't get in, never fear: the opera will be broadcast on an enormous screen outside the Center.

Entertainment for the whole family seems to be the holiday theme: children - and their retro parents - will be thrilled with the old-fashioned style circus parked in Gan Yehoshua (Yarkon Park) for extended performances. Circus Madrano includes 100 artists, along with elephants, lions, horses, a live orchestra, trapeze shows, acrobatics, and scenes from the musical *Aladdin*. Two performances are offered today and tonight, one at 4 p.m., and the next at 7:30 p.m. Call (03) 699-8917/8.

On the theater scene, Fringe Theater offers a choice: *Strange Melodies* plays at the Zionist Organization House, starting at 9 p.m., while the Tzavta runs *Tomorrow I Turn 52*, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Even more on the alternative side of theater, Tzavta 2 will be holding an evening of improvisations. Presenters include Rotem Itah, Adir Miller, Assi Cohen and Guri Alfi; starting at 11 p.m.

Before dutifully contemplating the Exodus, Jaffa audiences are treated to a rather offbeat presentation this evening that includes a taste of the naughty.

As part of the first-ever Japan Season in Israel, Kim Itoh and his five-member group will perform their contemplative dance/movement show. Itoh and his company perform entirely naked, something which has earned them much attention before they've even been seen. Tonight at the Noga Theater in Jaffa, at 8:30 p.m.

Music goes decidedly funky tonight. The Camelot night spot hosts Detroit musician Rudolph Hawkins, playing with our local Shevakiah Baht-Israel group. The show features a promising combination of gospel, soul and R+B. (Camelot, 16 Shalom Aleichem near Ben Yehuda, 03-528-5222.) Logos bar/club hosts a local band called Jingo, this evening, starting at 10 p.m. (Logos, 8 Hashomer, 03-5161176, 03-5100913.)

Weekender Food & Drink



Taking the heat

Roasting is quick and simple and can be as creative as any other kind of cooking, writes Barbara Kafka

You open the oven door, careful to avoid the rush of hot air. The earthy aromas of meat and caramelized vegetables have your taste buds swooning. There it is: a complete dinner cooked in a remarkably short time, a rustic feast that can be served after work or for last-minute company.

And roasting is a great method to use during Pessah since it is simple and uses only one pan. So what is this revolutionary cooking method that requires little preparation or attention? It's called roasting, a magical method that's been around for centuries. The oven dial is turned up to the max, a scorching 245° to 260°, and the natural flavors of foods are intensified. Thanks to caramelizing, roasting concentrates flavors without added fat, giving foods a crispy exterior, tender interior, and rich, dark color.

Despite its simplicity, roasting can be as creative as any other kind of cooking. The seasonings can be varied to suit individual palates. The combinations of meats and vegetables can be changed, making recipes your own.

ROASTED CORNISH HENS AND JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE IN TOMATO-OLIVE SAUCE

2 700 gr. Cornish hens
1/2 tsp. salt, divided
1/4 tsp. pepper, divided
450 gr. Jerusalem artichokes, peeled and cut into 2.5 cm. pieces (can substitute potatoes)
10 large shallots, peeled and halved
1 tsp. olive oil
4 medium tomatoes, cut into 2.5 cm. pieces
1/4 cup sliced green olives, drained
1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar

Remove and discard giblets and necks from hens. Rinse hens under cold water; pat dry. Split hens in half lengthwise. Sprinkle hen

halves with 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper.

Preheat oven to 245°.

Combine artichokes and shallots in a large bowl. Toss with oil, 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper. Place shallot mixture on the rack of a broiler pan. Bake at 245° for 10 minutes, stirring once.

Arrange hen halves, skin sides up, over shallot mixture. Bake at 245° for 25 minutes or until hen juices run clear. Discard skin. Place hen halves on a serving platter; cover with foil and keep warm.

Add tomatoes and olives to shallot mixture. Bake at 245° for 10 minutes or until tomatoes soften, stirring occasionally. Add tomato mixture to serving platter and drizzle with vinegar. (Serves 4.)

FILET MIGNON WITH ROASTED POTATOES AND ASPARAGUS

The asparagus is quick-roasted

after the beef and potatoes are pulled from the oven.

700 gr. asparagus spears
3/4 tsp. salt, divided
3 baking potatoes, cut into 2.5 cm. pieces

1 tsp. olive oil
1/2 tsp. pepper, divided
cooking spray
550 gr. beef tenderloin
1/4 cup water

Preheat oven to 260°.

Snap off tough ends of asparagus; sprinkle with 1/4 tsp. salt. Set aside.

Toss potatoes with oil, 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Arrange in a single layer in the bottom of a broiler pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 260° for 10 minutes.

Trim fat from tenderloin. Sprinkle tenderloin with 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Insert meat thermometer into thickest

portion of tenderloin. Add tenderloin to broiler pan, nestling it into potato mixture. Bake at 260° for 20 minutes or until thermometer registers 145° (medium-rare) to 160° (medium), stirring potatoes once.

Place tenderloin and potatoes on a serving platter and cover with foil. Let stand 10 minutes.

Add asparagus and water to pan. Bake at 260° for 10 minutes or until asparagus is crisp-tender. Serve with tenderloin and potatoes. (Serves 4.)

TARRAGON-ROASTED CHICKEN WITH MUSHROOMS, POTATOES

The chicken and potatoes roast first together. Mushrooms are added later and then stirred so that they roast evenly.

1 1/2 kg. roasting chicken
cooking spray
8 tarragon sprigs
4 medium red potatoes, halved
1/2 tsp. salt, divided
1/2 tsp. pepper, divided
6 cups quartered mushrooms

Preheat oven to 260°.

Remove and discard giblets and neck from the chicken. Rinse chicken under cold water and pat dry. Trim excess fat from chicken. Place chicken, breast side up, on the rack of a broiler pan coated with cooking spray.

Place tarragon sprigs in body cavity of chicken. Arrange potatoes around chicken and sprinkle 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper over potatoes. Insert meat thermometer into meaty part of thigh, making sure not to touch bone.

Bake at 260° for 15 minutes; turn potatoes. Add mushrooms; sprinkle with 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Bake at 260° for an additional 15 minutes. Stir mushrooms and bake at 260° for an additional 15 minutes or until thermometer registers 180° and chicken juices run clear. Discard skin. (Serves 4.)

Creators Syndicate, Inc.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

than give them as a present, I think it would be fun to serve them on a platter with fruit and nuts. NIS 16.95 for 250 gr.

Fifty little milk chocolates from Elite's Selected line are lined up in individually wrapped packages in the Selected Chocolates box. It is the kind of present hosts enjoy getting because they can serve it for dessert. Kids might also like these since they are the right size for stuffing in their pockets. A 225 gr. package costs NIS 29.90. Selected milk chocolate with nuts are also available wrapped in gold 2-bar packages. At 300 gr. for NIS 16.90, it is definitely more ecological (fewer wrappers) and cheaper, if you are looking for a gift for a child.

Spreading it thin (OK)

The Vita company, makers of one of my favorite products - Tutti Frutti Preserves (sweetened by fruit juice only) - has introduced a date and apple filling and a date, apple and poppy seed filling for baking. I can't say I'm a fan. The date and apple one tastes fine, but it is slightly mealy and I don't like the taste enough to want to bake with it. The brown-black mass that is the poppy seed version also has a pleasant taste, but visually it reminds me of frog's eggs. It is certified kosher for Pessah by Rabbi Tzefania Drori of the Rabbinat of Kiryat Shmona. NIS 6.75 for 450 gr.

Not quite like home (avoid)

Why would you buy a home-style prepared horseradish that contains an unidentified sweetener, sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate? Although the label of Salatai Tzabar's prepared horseradish boasts it contains "no food coloring," a closer look at the label will reveal which additives it does have. Strauss managed to create a horseradish

that contains just horseradish, beets, sugar, water, vinegar and salt. That's what we should have gotten from Tzabar, were it really home-style. NIS 9.99.

Chilean wine (good)

Domingo Rey is the only Chilean wine available in Israel that is kosher for Pessah (certified by the Chief Rabbinate). Imported by Barkan Wineries, Domingo Rey has a good reputation as a quality wine from a 19th century vineyard in the Maule Valley of Chile. It's not cheap, but is reasonably priced at NIS 38.25 for a 750 ml. bottle. Both cabernet sauvignon and merlot are available. It is a good present, and an interesting wine.

Almost After Eight

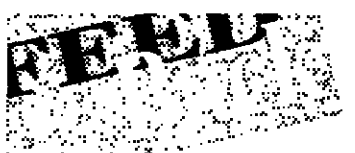
For those who love to end their meal with a chocolate mint, Ron Food has imported a kosher for Pessah version. Manufactured by Weisol, a leading German manufacturer, the chocolate mints are individually packed in a 250 gr. box. NIS 13.90.

Consumer flashes: Pizza for Pessah?

They've actually done it. Pizza Hut will be selling kosher for Pessah pizza, kosher for Pessah soups and kosher for Pessah "bread" sticks, using specially designed recipes developed in Israel. That's a way to have your pie and eat it too.

Apropos cakes

This year the Apropos coffee shops are selling cakes like chocolate, Chocochino, Nutcracker, cream cheese and Mozart that are kosher for Pessah. Apropos's bakery is planning on baking 2,000 cakes for the occasion. You also can order kosher for Pessah egg rolls, sambusak, crepes, blintzes and various Far Eastern dishes.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

What is the origin of halva? Is it Turkish? Is it healthy?
- Estee Baruch, Tel Aviv

No one knows the actual origin of halva, but archaeologists have found sesame seeds in the pyramids of ancient Egypt. It is possible that the chefs of yore crushed it and combined it with some kind of honey or dried fruit to create something similar to halva.

During the Middle Ages, Arabs prepared a sweet called *halva* that was made with dried bread crumbs, crushed dates, almonds and pistachios and held together with sesame oil or a tefina-like substance.

Although it contains a lot of sugar, halva is a good source of calcium, potassium, iron and vitamins B1, B2 and niacin.

In one of Faye Levy's recipes she lists minced shallot or green

onion in the ingredients. What is the difference between shallot and green onion?
- Marvin Greenberg, Jerusalem

A shallot is a small, mild variety of onion. Similar to garlic in appearance, only with extra large cloves, it gives a hint of a garlicky-onion flavor to sauces and other dishes. Three to four shallots equal a medium-sized, regular onion. Shallots originated in Syria, and the Crusaders brought them to England and France. They were given the name *eshalot* because the Crusaders believed they came from Ashkelon.

Green onions are also a mild form of onion. They are particularly good for garnishing salads or for adding color to foods at the end of cooking. These also were believed to have originated from Ashkelon, but they didn't.

Is kosher pectin available here in Israel? If so, how could I use it in the preparation of jams from various fruits? I also have tried adding cornstarch (which gave the jam a powdery taste) or flavored or pure kosher gelatin (which made the jam lumpy). Do you have a foolproof recipe for strawberry jam? All the

recipes I have tried talk about a setting point which the strawberry sugar mixture is supposed to reach after 15-20 minutes. In my experience this never happens.

- Esther Herskovic, Jerusalem

There once was a pectin-like thickener especially for jams, produced by Telma, but not enough consumers bought it and it was taken off the market. Pectin is available at the Front Bros. spice store at the entrance to the Carmel market. Perhaps you can find it in a spice store in Mahaneh Yehuda. Front Bros. sells powdered pectin, which one must dissolve very well or it too will create lumps.

I rarely make jams, but generally the rule is 1 kg. fruit to 1 kg. sugar, without the addition of pectin.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by e-mail: phyllisfood@jpost.co.il.

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Golan releases new white wines in time for Pessah

By ROGA TARNOPOLSKY

During the pre-Pessah period, in which Israeli wine makers make almost half of their yearly sales, the Golan Heights Winery is releasing a number of white wines. The wines range from the Golan line of relatively uncomplicated, clean wines to the very fine Yarden Katzin Chardonnay, one of the rare white wines that is worth keeping and aging for a number of years.

1997 Golan Smadar is a medium-bodied, fruity wine made of sauvignon blanc, chenin blanc and muscat grapes. The muscat grapes are particularly evident in the wine's fruity, concentrated aroma. This semi-dry wine makes a great aperitif. NIS 24.70.

The 1997 Golan Sauvignon Semillon replaces what has until now been known as the Golan Blanc. As its new name indicates, it is made up of a blend of sauvignon blanc and semillon grapes. This is a very pleasant dry wine, with citrus peel and tobacco in its flavors. This is a wine which can accompany a wide variety of dishes, including most pastas, fish, and poultry, or as the Golan Heights chief wine

maker Victor Schoenheit recommends, you can "suck a whole grape in the snow for an after-dinner glass of wine." NIS 24.70.

1997 Yarden Katzin Chardonnay is a blend of sauvignon blanc with a small amount of chardonnay. It is a dry wine with concentrated fruit flavors that include melon and wild herbs and has a strong, fruity finish. NIS 29.90.

The 1996 Yarden Katzin Chardonnay is made of 100 percent chardonnay grapes. The delightful complexity of its flavors - in which one detects orange, figs and banana and the characteristic yeasty depth of oak - feels like a warm blanket on the palate. It is a concentrated, aromatic and full-bodied chardonnay in which the unexpected deep flavor of oak, in which this wine was aged, complements the liveliness of the fruit. It should be used to accompany such consequential dishes as roast lamb prepared with chardonnay, veal sweetbreads, or perhaps a festive vitello tonato. A great value at NIS 68.30.

Don't welcome Laurent Perrier champagne

There is a great pre-Pessah extravaganza taking place in the lobby and in the Gall of the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv: a special spring menu has been put together to herald the arrival of Laurent Perrier champagnes in Israel.

Laurent Perrier is a venerable and traditional (since 1812) producer of a variety of sparkling and still wines from the region of Champagne.

What makes Laurent Perrier stand apart from its colleagues is the production of a certain number of kosher sparkling wines, which are as good as the non-kosher varieties.

The Dan's special menu is fun and deliciously worth trying. It includes plate de foie gras with a chardonnay aspic, Laurent Perrier bottle and sea bass with sweetbreads.

There is one down side - the price for a bottle of Laurent Perrier rose champagne is NIS 399, the price for a bottle of brut is NIS 450.

Weekender Food & Drink



Taking the heat

Roasting is quick and simple and can be as creative as any other kind of cooking, writes Barbara Kafka

You open the oven door, careful to avoid the rush of hot air. The earthy aromas of meat and caramelized vegetables have your taste buds swooning. There it is: a complete dinner cooked in a remarkably short time, a rustic feast that can be served after work or for last-minute company.

And roasting is a great method to use during Pessah since it is simple and uses only one pan.

So what is this revolutionary cooking method that requires little preparation or attention? It's called roasting, a magical method that's been around for centuries. The oven dial is turned up to the max, a scorching 245° to 260°, and the natural flavors of foods are intensified. Thanks to caramelizing, roasting concentrates flavors without added fat, giving foods a crispy exterior, tender interior, and rich, dark color.

Despite its simplicity, roasting can be as creative as any other kind of cooking. The seasonings can be varied to suit individual palates. The combinations of meats and vegetables can be changed, making recipes your own.

ROASTED CORNISH HENS AND JERUSALEM ARTICHOKES IN TOMATO-OLIVE SAUCE

2 700 gr. Cornish hens
1/2 tsp. salt, divided
1/4 tsp. pepper, divided
450 gr. Jerusalem artichokes, peeled and cut into 2.5 cm. pieces (can substitute potatoes)
10 large shallots, peeled and halved
1 tsp. olive oil
4 medium tomatoes, cut into 2.5 cm. pieces
1/4 cup sliced green olives, drained
1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar

Remove and discard giblets and necks from hens. Rinse hens under cold water; pat dry. Split hens in half lengthwise. Sprinkle hen

halves with 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper.

Preheat oven to 245°.

Combine artichokes and shallots in a large bowl. Toss with oil, 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper. Place shallot mixture on the rack of a broiler pan. Bake at 245° for 10 minutes, stirring once.

Arrange hen halves, skin sides up, over shallot mixture. Bake at 245° for 25 minutes or until hen juices run clear. Discard skin. Place hen halves on a serving platter; cover with foil and keep warm.

Add tomatoes and olives to shallot mixture. Bake at 245° for 10 minutes or until tomatoes soften, stirring occasionally. Add tomato mixture to serving platter and drizzle with vinegar. (Serves 4.)

FILET MIGNON WITH ROASTED POTATOES AND ASPARAGUS

The asparagus is quick-roasted

after the beef and potatoes are pulled from the oven.

700 gr. asparagus spears
3/4 tsp. salt, divided
3 baking potatoes, cut into 2.5 cm. pieces
1 tsp. olive oil
1/2 tsp. pepper, divided
cooking spray
550 gr. beef tenderloin
1/4 cup water

Preheat oven to 260°.

Snap off tough ends of asparagus; sprinkle with 1/4 tsp. salt. Set aside.

Toss potatoes with oil, 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Arrange in a single layer in the bottom of a broiler pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 260° for 10 minutes.

Trim fat from tenderloin. Sprinkle tenderloin with 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Insert meat thermometer into thickest

portion of tenderloin. Add tenderloin to broiler pan, nestling it into potato mixture. Bake at 260° for 20 minutes or until thermometer registers 145° (medium-rare) to 160° (medium), stirring potatoes once.

Place tenderloin and potatoes on a serving platter and cover with foil. Let stand 10 minutes.

Add asparagus and water to pan. Bake at 260° for 10 minutes or until asparagus is crisp-tender. Serve with tenderloin and potatoes. (Serves 4.)

TARRAGON-ROASTED CHICKEN WITH MUSHROOMS, POTATOES

The chicken and potatoes roast first together. Mushrooms are added later and then stirred so that they roast evenly.

1 1/2 kg. roasting chicken
cooking spray
8 tarragon sprigs
4 medium red potatoes, halved
1/2 tsp. salt, divided
1/2 tsp. pepper, divided
6 cups quartered mushrooms

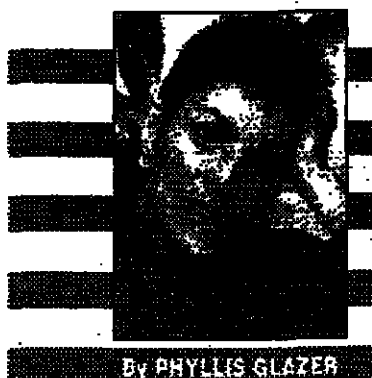
Preheat oven to 260°.

Remove and discard giblets and neck from the chicken. Rinse chicken under cold water and pat dry. Trim excess fat from chicken. Place chicken, breast side up, on the rack of a broiler pan coated with cooking spray.

Place tarragon sprigs in body cavity of chicken. Arrange potatoes around chicken and sprinkle 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper over potatoes. Insert meat thermometer into meaty part of thigh, making sure not to touch bone.

Bake at 260° for 15 minutes; turn potatoes. Add mushrooms; sprinkle with 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Bake at 260° for an additional 15 minutes. Stir mushrooms and bake at 260° for an additional 15 minutes or until thermometer registers 180° and chicken juices run clear. Discard skin. (Serves 4.)

Creators Syndicate, Inc.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

than give them as a present. I think it would be fun to serve them on a platter with fruit and nuts. NIS 16.95 for 250 gr.

Fifty little milk chocolates from Elite's Selected line are lined up in individually wrapped packages in the Selected Chocolates box. It is the kind of present hosts enjoy getting because they can serve it for dessert. Kids might also like these since they are the right size for stuffing in their pockets. A 225 gr. package costs NIS 29.90. Selected milk chocolate with nuts are also available wrapped in gold 2-bar packages. At 300 gr. for NIS 16.90, it is definitely more ecological (fewer wrappers) and cheaper; if you are looking for a gift for a child.

Spreading it thin (OK)

The Vita company, makers of one of my favorite products — Tutti Frutti Preserves (sweetened by fruit juice only) — has introduced a date and apple filling and a date, apple and poppy seed filling for baking. I can't say I'm a fan. The date and apple one tastes fine, but it is slightly mealy and I don't like the taste enough to want to bake with it. The brown-black mass that is the poppy seed version also has a pleasant taste, but visually it reminds me of frog's eggs. It is certified kosher for Pessah by Rabbi Tzafira Drori of the Rabbinat of Kiryat Shmona. NIS 6.75 for 450 gr.

Not quite like home (avoid)

Why would you buy a home-style prepared horseradish that contains an unidentified sweetener, sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate? Although the label of Salatai Tzabar's prepared horseradish boasts it contains "no food coloring," a closer look at the label will reveal which additives it does have. Strauss managed to create a horseradish

that contains just horseradish, beets, sugar, water, vinegar and salt. That's what we should have gotten from Tzabar, were it really home-style. NIS 9.99.

Chilean wine (good)

Domingo Rey is the only Chilean wine available in Israel that is kosher for Pessah (certified by the Chief Rabbinate). Imported by Barkan Wineries, Domingo Rey has a good reputation as a quality wine from a 19th century vineyard in the Maule Valley of Chile. It's not cheap, but is reasonably priced at NIS 38.25 for a 750 ml. bottle. Both cabernet sauvignon and merlot are available. It is a good present, and an interesting wine.

Almost After Eight

For those who love to end their meal with a chocolate mint, Ron Food has imported a kosher for Pessah version. Manufactured by Weiss, a leading German manufacturer, the chocolate mints are individually packed in a 250 gr. box. NIS 13.90.

Consumer flashes:

Pizza for Pessah?
They've actually done it. Pizza Hut will be selling kosher for Pessah pizza, kosher for Pessah soups and kosher for Pessah "bread" sticks, using specially designed recipes developed in Israel. That's a way to have your pie and eat it too.

Appropo cakes

This year the Apropro coffee shops are selling cakes like chocolate, Chocochino, Nutcracker, cream cheese and Mozart that are kosher for Pessah. Apropro's bakery is planning on baking 2,000 cakes for the occasion. You also can order kosher for Pessah egg rolls, samosas, crepes, blintzes and various Far Eastern dishes.

Back

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

What is the origin of halva? Is it Turkish? Is it healthy?
— Estee Baruch, Tel Aviv

No one knows the actual origin of halva, but archaeologists have found sesame seeds in the pyramids of ancient Egypt. It is possible that the chefs of yore crushed it and combined it with some kind of honey or dried fruit to create something similar to halva. During the Middle Ages, Arabs prepared a sweet called *halas* that was made with dried bread crumbs, crushed dates, almonds and pistachios and held together with sesame oil or a tchena-like substance.

Although it contains a lot of sugar, halva is a good source of calcium, potassium, iron and vitamins B1, B2 and niacin.

In one of Faye Levy's recipes she lists minced shallot or green

onion in the ingredients. What is the difference between shallot and green onion?
— Marvin Greenberg, Jerusalem

A shallot is a small, mild variety of onion. Similar to garlic in appearance, only with extra large cloves, it gives a hint of a garlicky-onion flavor to sauces and other dishes. Three to four shallots equal a medium-sized, regular onion. Shallots originated in Syria, and the Crusaders brought them to England and France. They were given the name *eschalot* because the Crusaders believed they came from Ashkelon.

Green onions are also a mild form of onion. They are particularly good for garnishing salads or for adding color to foods at the end of cooking. These also were believed to have originated from Ashkelon, but they didn't.

Is kosher pectin available here in Israel? If so, how could I use it in the preparation of jams from various fruits? I also have tried adding cornstarch (which gave the jam a powdery taste) or flavored or pure kosher gelatin (which made the jam lumpy).

Do you have a foolproof recipe for strawberry jam? All the

recipes I have tried talk about a setting point which the strawberry sugar mixture is supposed to reach after 15-20 minutes. In my experience this never happens.

Esther Herskovic, Jerusalem

There once was a pectin-like thickener especially for jams, produced by Telma, but not enough consumers bought it and it was taken off the market. Pectin is available at the Front Bros. spice store at the entrance to the Carmel market. Perhaps you can find it in a spice store in Mahaneh Yehuda. Front Bros. sells powdered pectin, which one must dissolve very well or it too will create lumps.

I rarely make jams, but generally the rule is 1 kg. fruit to 1 kg. sugar, without the addition of pectin.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisglazer@jpost.co.il.

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Wine Cellar

Golan releases new white wines in time for Pessah

By NOVA TARNOPOLSK

During the last Pessah festival, in which Israeli wine makers make almost half of their yearly sales, the Golan Heights Winery is releasing a number of white wines. The winery's new white wine, which is made from the Golan Heights Chardonnay, is a clean, crisp, and elegant wine. It is a great addition to the Golan Heights Winery's line of wines, which includes a variety of red and white wines. The winery's new white wine is available in Israel and abroad.

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Weekender Leisure



Clockwise from top left: Gideon Oberson's evening wear features light and shadow fabrics with intriguing layering; for daytime, there's a semi-fitted strawberry red suit with pleated jacket; his summer skirts are every length; daughter Karen Oberson makes her mark with little leopard print strapless dresses.

Chic to chic

Gideon Oberson is in his element again. No longer does he have to find a sophisticated means of competing with grunge. Softly tailored elegance and romance have returned to the fashion scene, enabling Oberson to do what he does best.

More than any other Israeli designer, Oberson has a distinct sense of élan. His shape and his cut spell class with a capital C, and the ongoing ripples of applause that greeted most of the items in his new spring/summer collection testified to the fact that his audience was no less delighted than he with changing trends and cleaner lines.

Oberson's daughter Karen, who has worked by his side for years but only in the last year or two has produced her own signature collection, has obviously inherited her father's creative genes.

Though a little more youthful and casual in her approach, she has that same familiar chic. For instance, her near little leopard print strapless dresses were finished with a strip of soft, nut-brown leather at the bustline. The soft leather surfaced again in the form of a bustier teamed with a smart yet comfortable pants suit featuring a collarless single-breasted jacket and cuffed easy-fit trousers.

Her small offering in comparison to that of her father included cropped tops with one bare shoulder, linen ensembles and linen mesh shirts worn over – you guessed it – soft leather bras. For evening wear, she chose fine chiffons and sheer organzas with embroidery highlights,



Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman



Bridge Four questions at the bridge table

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
North-South vulnerable

North
♠ 8 6
♥ J 8 5 3
♦ 9 8 6
♣ Q 9 8 7

West (Soloway) East (Goldman)
♠ K Q 7 4 2 ♠ A J 9
♥ A 10 6 ♥ Q 4
♦ A Q 4 ♦ K J 10 5 3
♣ A 5 ♣ K J 2

South
♠ 10 5 3
♥ K 9 7 2
♦ 7 2
♣ 10 6 4 3

South	West	North	East
pass	1 ♠	pass	2 ♦
pass	3 ♦	pass	3 ♠
pass	4 ♣	pass	4 ♦
pass	4 NT	pass	5 ♠
pass	5 NT	pass	6 ♣
pass	7 ♣	pass	7 NT
(all pass, exhausted)			

Why is this deal different from all other deals? At the Seder table tomorrow night, we'll hear the famous four questions. At the bridge table, four questions can also help, but the more experienced the partnership, the more informative the answers.

Indeed, the questions themselves are also informative, and though they are rarely as complicated as the Talmudic nuances of the Seder, they can often be difficult to interpret without a guide. Allow me to be your guide on today's auction, which comes from the 1998 US Vanderbilt Teams.

The Vanderbilt was contested three weeks ago in Reno, Nevada, site of the American Contract Bridge League's Spring Nationals. This knock-out championship (like a tennis tournament, there are head-to-head matches and the loser is knocked out) came down to two of America's best teams battling it out over 64 deals.

The winners were Richie Schwartz, Mark Lair, Bobby Goldman, Paul Soloway, Chip Martel and Lew Stansby. They defeated James Cayne, Chuck Burger, Mike Passell, Michael Seamon, Larry Cohen and Dave Berkowitz, by a score of 121 IMPs to 101 IMPs.

Our heroes sat East-West, Goldman (East) and Soloway (West). They reached seven

notrump, the best possible contract (and highest scoring contract, 1520 not vulnerable) in the game. Their counterparts reached seven diamonds, which scored 1440 points, so the difference in score, 80 points, meant a 2-IMP gain for Goldman-Soloway's team.

The 12-bid auction began with a one-spade opening by West and a two-diamond response by East. Goldman-Soloway play "two-over-one," which means that a two-level response is a game force. West's raise to three diamonds showed extra values, and East set the trump suit with a bid of three spades. Even though diamonds and spades were both bid and raised, spades was assumed to be the trump suit, since it was the major suit.

The first four bids had set the table for the "four questions."

The first question was initiated by West's cuebid of four clubs, a slam try, asking East to cuebid in return if he had a good-looking hand for slam. East responded four diamonds, expressing interest. If East had no interest in slam, he would have signed off in four spades.

The second question by West was four notrump, asking partner to show the number of "keycards" (the four aces and the king of the agreed trump suit, spades). East's five-diamond reply (second step) showed one keycard (the ace of spades).

The third question was West's five notrump. He now expressed interest in a grand slam and declared with his five-notrump bid that the partnership held all the keycards and the queen of spades. East replied to this query that he held the king of clubs by bidding six clubs.

Now the most subtle question of all was made when Soloway (West) bid seven clubs, asking partner to choose a trump suit at the seven level. Soloway wanted to play seven spades or seven diamonds, but he wasn't sure which suit was stronger. The stronger trump suit would be the one in which partner held the jack. Goldman (East) understood the meaning of seven clubs (since clubs could not logically be the trump suit), but he was looking at both jacks! So he bid neither suit; instead, he answered seven notrump, counting on running five spade tricks, five diamond tricks, the ace-king of clubs and the ace of hearts. He was right, and 13 tricks were there.

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by e-mail at gran@netvision.net.il.

Chess More spit than polish

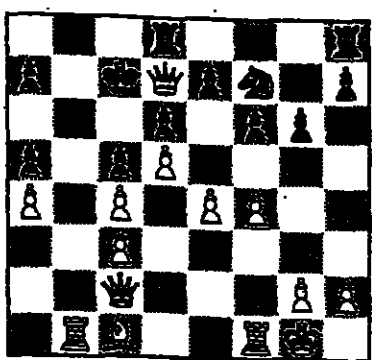
By NIGEL SHORT

THE victor of this year's Rubinstein Memorial tournament in Polanica Zdroj, was Sergei Rublevsky. The 22-year-old Russian scored an impressive 7 out of 9 points in a very strong field, with famous players such as Psakhis, Andersson and Elvest (The King) failing to reach 50 percent.

I cannot tell you much about this young man, never having faced him over the board. My only encounter with him was in Moscow, when the organizers of the Kremlin Stars tournament suggested we might share a car together on the way to the playing hall. Comrade Rublevsky refused point blank to suffer my presence for the 15-minute journey.

If his manners still require some polishing, his chess needs rather less, as this demolition of the tournament tail-enders amply demonstrates.

White: Rublevsky
Black: Elvest
Polanica Zdroj, 1997
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. c4 Nc6 5... Qg4 6. 0-0 Qxe4 7. d4 unsurprisingly leads to a dangerous initiative. 6. Nc3 g6 7. d4 Bg7 8. d5 Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 Na5 10. Nd2. Varying from the 10. 0-0 f6 11. Nd2 b6 of Shirov-Kasparov, Yerevan 1996. 10... f6 11. f4 0-0 12. 0-0 b6. An interesting position, if black can tame the white initiative Rublevsky will be left with weak c-pawns and an ineffectual bishop on c1.



However, this is easier said than done. 13. a4 Nb6 14. Nb3 Nf7. A concession but 14... Nxc4? 15. Qd3 was unpleasant. 15. Nxa5 bxa5 16. Qb3 Qb7 17. Qc2 Qd7 18. Rb1 Kc7

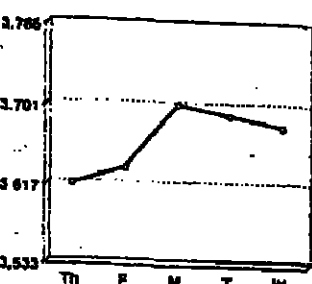
19. e5!? More or less strategically forced, as otherwise white will be gradually driven on to the defensive, and 19. Rb5? a6 20. Rxa5?? Kb6 was to be avoided. 19... fxe5 20. f5 gxf5 20... g5 21. f6 gave white a lot of activity but this is even worse. 21. Rxf5 Rxf5 22. Qf2 Qe8 23. Qb2! cunningly switching over. 23... Qa8 24. Qb5 Nd8 25. Rxf8 Rxf8 26. Bg5 Nf7 26... Rf7 27. Qe8 failed to save the e-pawn. 27. Bxf7 Rb8 28. Qa5+ Kd7 29. Rf1 Kc8? A blunder in a tricky position. 30. Bxd6! Nxd6 31. Qc7. The defence caves in. If now 31... Rd8 32. Qg7 threatens an unstoppable mate on f8.

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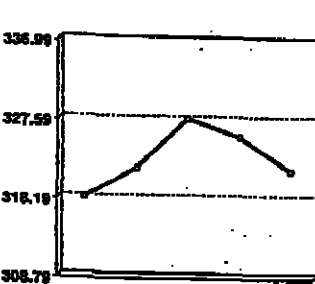
MARKETS

in brief

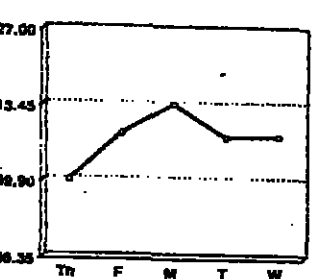
DOLLAR / SHEKEL



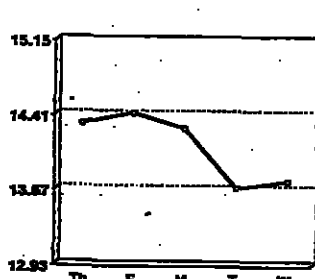
MAOF INDEX



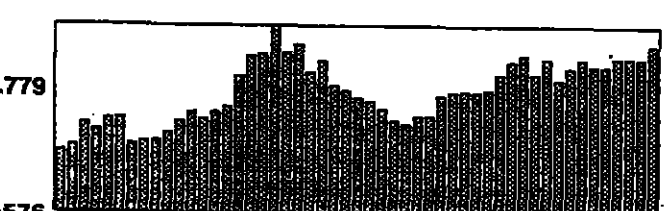
GOLD
\$ per ounce



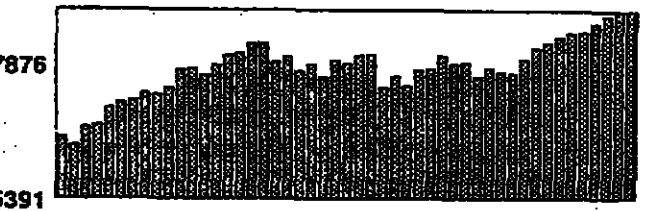
OIL
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Foreign worker permits to be reduced

The Employment Service announced yesterday it would cut the foreign worker permits this year by 20,000 from the present 91,591. Despite the availability of 50,000 permits for construction, only 37,000 are being utilized.

David Harris

Elbit wins digital map deal

Elbit Systems Ltd. has been chosen by an unnamed foreign air force to install its digital map system in a jet fighter, executives said this week. Elbit executives said the contract, estimated at between \$5 million to \$10m, marked the first time that the system, which can produce a broad range of images on a multifunction color display, is being used in a fighter jet. Until now, the mapping system has been installed in the Bradley A-3 armored vehicle of the US Army, scheduled to be operational in 2000, and in the US Marines V-22. Executives would not give details about the contract's size but said that it calls for the supply of 40 digital map systems for one model aircraft with a potential of another 50 systems for other planes. They said Elbit beat out British and French companies for the award.

Steve Rodan

Currency basket remains unchanged

The weight of the five currencies in the currency basket will remain unchanged this year, the Bank of Israel said yesterday. The weighting is based on the amount of foreign trade with the U.S., Germany, Britain, France and Japan. It tends to be adjusted whenever trade levels with any of these countries changes by two percent or more.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Koor approves ECI deal

Koor Industries' board of directors yesterday approved the purchase of Claridge Israel's holdings in ECI Telecom for \$180 million. Koor will pay Claridge \$28 per share, which is slightly lower than the \$29.25 per share paid earlier this year to Clal Israel for 5% of the telecom company.

Dan Gerstenfeld

L'Oreal to donate \$100,000 for TAU computers

L'Oreal will donate \$100,000 this year for investment in computer and multimedia systems at Tel Aviv University's Leon Recanati School of Business, company vice president for human resources Francois Vachey said this week in a ceremony for honor students.

In honor of Israel's 50th anniversary, he said, the company also plans, beginning this year, to give \$10,000 prizes to women with outstanding achievements in economics, business, and research dealing with women in business. Vachey also granted 11 scholarships to honor students chosen to participate in a management training course in L'Oreal offices worldwide.

Nina Gilbert

Livnat agrees to advance women in high-tech

Communications Minister Limor Livnat has agreed to head the Manufacturers Association program to advance women to senior positions in the management of high-tech companies.

The program, formulated for the association's forum of women managers, headed by Ronit Silon, aims to boost the number of women managers by 14% to 20% in five years, to reach a figure of some 1,260 in senior positions.

There are only six women CEOs in the high-tech industry here. Livnat is to hold a meeting on the program tomorrow with Electronics Association head Zohar Zisapel, president of RAD Electronics Association head Zohar Zisapel, president of the soft-data communications and Amiram Shor, chairman of the industry and trade ministry. The industry and Trade Ministry have agreed to help fund a course for high-tech personnel departments to help advance women in the industry.

Nina Gilbert

60 Israelis get job offers

Sixty Israeli computer and electronics professionals were given job offers in a recent high-tech employment fairs held in four North American locations. The potential employees plan to visit over the next few months to conclude terms of employment. The Manufacturers Association said.

Some 350 candidates were interviewed in the fairs, which were sponsored by the association, the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry with the aim of enticing Israelis living abroad and prospective immigrants to come work in high-tech industries here. The companies that made the offers include Elbit, Elrat, Gilat, Tower Semiconductor, Tadiran Telecommunications, IBM, Motorola, and Aurec.

Nina Gilbert

Still no decision on forex taxation

By DAVID HARRIS

The Treasury and Bank of Israel are still discussing the level of control over taxation and the need to submit reports on forex activities as part of the currency liberalization measures expected to be announced on or before April 30 - Independence Day, a senior central bank official said yesterday.

Last night Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's spokeswoman Esty Applebaum denied a report on Channel 2 that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is attempting to reduce the scope of the planned changes. It was reported that Netanyahu is increasingly afraid of the implication for the market of a fully convertible shekel.

"Everything is carrying on as

usual," Applebaum said. "What was broadcast was nonsense, I don't know where they got it from."

The announcement of the details of the last stages of the program will come roughly on time but will take some time to implement because they will require legislation, a source close to the discussions said yesterday.

The legislation will outline the overall regime for forex trading and will set the framework for Netanyahu's June 1997 declaration that "we will go from a situation where everything is forbidden unless said otherwise, to a position where everything is permitted except for a certain relatively small number of specifics."

Among the restrictions that will seemingly be laid down are those

concerning institutional investors.

The central bank official confirmed that the proposals do include plans for Israeli citizens to purchase real estate overseas. It is concerning issues such as this that the tax and report issues are still being deliberated.

"The problem is what you do here," said the official. "For example, you can't alter taxation overnight, even if you wanted. This is why negotiations are ongoing."

The imposition of taxes on overseas and foreign currency holdings and the need to report details of activities will form a central plank of the government's decision on the final steps in the liberalization process, added the official.

Prime Minister's Office spokesman Ofir Akonin yesterday

confirmed "the reform will be implemented on time and as intended. I'm telling you loud and clear. The date for implementation is Independence Day."

Later in the day, Netanyahu also dismissed media reports that there will be a delay to the program.

"We are convinced we'll complete the liberalization program in the Israeli economy very quickly," he said.

The Bank of Israel, meanwhile, is increasing pressure on the Treasury and prime minister to declare openly and fully the nature of the outstanding measures in order to prevent uncertainty and panic in the markets, according to another central bank source.

"In the last couple of days we've seen the type of noise this uncertainty can create," said the source.

A Prime Minister's Office staffer confirmed that Netanyahu, Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel met Tuesday to discuss the last stage of the forex reforms, however, the source denied the meeting was hastily organized in the wake of a 1.82 percent depreciation in the shekel against the dollar on Monday.

"It wasn't connected to that at all, as you saw one day it was up, the next day it was down," said the staffer, referring to Tuesday's 0.3% recovery. "They have to meet because the reforms are going to happen around Independence Day. It's no secret, it's already well known."

Tuesday's meeting also was attended by the directors-general of the Prime Minister's Office and Treasury.



(From left) Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, and Hutchison Telecom director Khoo Chek Ngee smile at the prime minister's quip, "We appreciate that," after Khoo yesterday handed over a NIS 1.4 billion license-fee check for the right to become Israel's third cellular telephone operator.

(By an McBurney)

After winning cellular phone tender:

Hutchison mulls more investments here

By DAVID HARRIS

Hong Kong-based Hutchison Telecom, the lead partner in the consortium that was last month awarded the third cellular telephone tender, will consider future investments here, according to company group managing director Khoo Chek Ngee.

"As we move into this business I'm sure we'll demonstrate to you more measures of faith in this country," said Khoo during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's

Office to celebrate the consortium's success. "Depending on how well we do with this investment and what kind of confidence we are able to generate with our group in this particular marketplace, I think the rest of the activities may follow."

The wider company Hutchison Whampoa also has container port operations, energy and power generation, and retail interests.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman congratulated Khoo and said he hopes this is only Hutchison's "first" investment

here. Khoo explained the reason for the initial \$1 billion investment here as "very clear - to be the only GSM operator."

At yesterday's ceremony, Communications Minister Limor Livnat told representatives of Partner, the consortium headed by Hutchison, there are 1.8 million cellular telephone users in Israel - but ministry estimates suggest that figure will rise to 2.7m. by the end of next year. The average Israeli speaks for 500 minutes a month

by mobile telephone, four times more than users in any other country.

"This is another step on the road to liberalization, competition, and giving better service to the public," said Livnat, who added that Partner intends employing 1,000 people.

Yesterday was the last day for companies to express interest in bidding to run domestic telephone lines. Livnat revealed that 17 companies from Israel and overseas have applied to receive further details.

Iscar postpones buying Korean company

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Iscar postponed its plan to purchase Korea Tungsten Mining's tungsten carbide tools division after labor unions protested the terms of the transaction, Eitan Wertheimer, Iscar's president, said yesterday.

Wertheimer, the son of Iscar founder and chairman Stef Wertheimer, said that both companies have reached agreement over price and terms, but that differences between Tungsten's management and workers kept the deal from going through.

"We told them that they need first to solve their internal problems," Wertheimer said. He added, however, that negotiations could be resumed once employees and management came to terms.

According to a report by Bloomberg, labor unions, which were already assured that jobs would remain intact, demanded 20 percent of sale proceeds, estimated at \$150 million.

During the talks workers locked officials in a building to protest the terms of the deal.

Iscar has been active in Korea

for some 17 years, and opened a sales office there in the early 1990s. The firm was the first Israeli company to try to complete a major purchase of a Far East company since the beginning of the Asian economic crisis.

Korean sources said that the dispute may spark problems for Korean companies aiming to sell assets to foreign investors to improve their finances.

Formed in 1916, Korea Tungsten became a unit of Korea's 28th largest conglomerate Keo Pyung Group four years

ago. The company manufactures and supplies metalwork products, cemented carbides, and tungsten-related goods, including three-layer tungsten carbide tools, fine ceramics, cement, and tungsten watch casings. It is branching out into the auto parts industry through a subsidiary. The division at stake accounts for about 80 percent of Korea Tungsten's activities.

"Iscar notified us of its decision to postpone the acquisition because of the labor dispute," said Kim Kwang Soo, a Keo Pyung spokesman.

Pratt and Whitney looks set to increase Israel interests

By NINA GILBERT

Pratt and Whitney is exploring the possibility of expanding production lines in its joint venture with the Wertheimer Group, the Nahariya-based Blades Technology, according to a company official visiting here this week.

"There are discussions going on with the Wertheimer Group on product lines besides compressor airfoils and turbines and investments beyond jet engines,"

according to Ed Hood, a procurement manager Pratt and Whitney.

Hood arrived with a delegation of eight officials to present an outstanding achievement award to the company's Ma'alot factory for the quality of its product, nickel compressor blades, and meeting orders.

The blades are used in the Pratt and Whitney engines that power the F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft.

Blades also has a factory in the Tefen industrial area and in Columbus, Georgia.

Pratt and Whitney purchased some \$120 million in products from the joint venture in 1997. "We certainly buy a considerable level of material in Israel. Our relationship is definitely destined to expand," Hood said. "Pratt benefits from manufacturing technology and expertise here. Israel can benefit from purchase of fighter engine."

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BEZEQ Israel Telecommunication Corp. Ltd.

Tender	Description	Submission Date	Inquiries to: Cost of Docs.
65/98/103/0	Computer Output Reducer for Microfiche	26/5/98 4 p.m.	02-5395614 NIS1,000

General Tender Participation Conditions:

- Pre-conditions:
 - Compliance with all laws, including laws relating to the keeping of account books, registering as an authorized trader, registering as a company, holding necessary licenses, and complying with relevant standard specifications.
 - Providing a guarantee, to ensure execution of bid offer - as detailed in tender documents.
 - Minimum requirements - as detailed in tender documents.
- The tender documents can be obtained from the Purchasing Unit, Tenders and Orders Dept., 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday to Thursday. The tender documents will be provided, on submitting a receipt, showing that the cost of the documents (as noted above) has been paid. Payment may be made:
 - In Israel - into Postal Bank acc. 5-311757
 - Abroad - into Acc. 12-901-97633/64 at the Jerusalem central branch of Bank Leumi LeIsrael
 The cost of the tender documents in non-returnable. The receipt plus details of the supplier, including authorized trader's number, may be sent by fax to 972-2-5378113. Receipt of the fax may be obtained by calling the above phone number.
- Bids must be deposited in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order all the required goods/services from one bidder.
- Bids sent by fax or telegram cannot be considered.

TARGET מטרה (מטרה)

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 7.4.98
Purchase Price: 134.08
Redemption Price: 133.12

MUTUAL FUNDS LEUMI PIA

PRIME פריים

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 7.4.98
Purchase Price: 119.34
Redemption Price: 118.70

MUTUAL FUNDS LEUMI PIA

-1.1875
-0.0625
-1.1875
-1.5
-0.5625
+1.1875

+0.25
 -0.125
 -0.375
 +1.125
 -0.875
 -1.5625
 +0.5625
 -0.5
 -0.125
 -0.375
 -1.25
 -0.375
 -0.0625
 -0.25
 +0.5625
 -0.5625
 -0.625
 +1.8125
 -0.1875

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 -0.5

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 -0.46875
 +0.25
 -0.375
 -2.4375
 -1.3125
 -0.0625

 -0.125
 -0.125
 -0.1875
 -0.75
 -0.85
 -0.625

+0.4375
-0.0625
+0.3125
-0.3125
+0.125
+0.125

-0.875
-0.1875

[illegible]

Richard Coal 27 1975 -0.9375

-In local currency

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375
Tel Aviv	34,375

LAST	CHANGE
US\$ Corp	52.925
US\$ Corp	52.925
US\$ Corp	52.925
US\$ Corp	52.925
US\$ Corp	52.925
US\$ Corp	52.925
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US\$ Corp	52.925
US\$ Corp	52.925
US\$ Corp	52.925
US\$ Corp	52.925

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 4/9/98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LAST	CHANGE
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3
US\$ (100)	3,918.3

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

LAST	CHANGE
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46
DJ Industrials	8,891.46

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

LAST	CHANGE
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2
FTSE 100	2,495.2

DOLLAR CROSSEXTS (US)

LAST	CHANGE
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75
Yen (100)	111.75

US COMMODITIES

LAST	CHANGE
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85

LONDON COMMODITIES

LAST	CHANGE
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85
Crude Oil (C2)	30.85

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

LAST	CHANGE
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

LAST	CHANGE
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5

LONDON METAL FUTURES

LAST	CHANGE
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5
Gold (100)	378.5

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 4/9/98)

TASE declines led by high-tech stocks

Tel Aviv

Stocks dropped for a second day yesterday, led by technology companies, which declined after Motorola Inc. said semiconductor sales would be lower because of the Asian financial crisis.

Nice Systems Ltd., a maker of voice and fax archiving systems, lost 3.7 percent to NIS 169.9 after its shares in the US declined 3.6 percent on Tuesday. That helped the Maof Index of 25 largest shares drop 1.2% to 321.63.

"Until now, we haven't seen a real injury in profitability of companies. We may be seeing a trend," said Ilan Doron, a trader at Solid Financial Markets. Even though Israeli high-tech companies don't have a "direct connection, everyone suffers together."

Formula Systems Ltd. sank 7.1% to 138.2 after its American depositary receipts lost 7.5% the previous day. The software house said it is considering selling \$70 million to \$100m. of shares in the US in June or July. The sale would dilute the value of existing stock, analysts said.

Asia

Japanese stocks climbed for a third day, paced by banks, on ris-

ing expectations the government will agree to several trillion yen worth of tax cuts in an effort to jolt the economy.

Traders are betting Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will extend a 2 trillion yen (\$15 billion) personal income tax cut offered last year and may indicate his government is considering further reductions at a press conference today.

"As far as the market is concerned, the 2 trillion yen is a given, and the government can afford another 3 trillion or so," said Minoru Tada, a managing director at Tokyo Securities Co. "Expectations that Hashimoto is going to drop some big hints have reduced the risks of buying underperforming industries."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index rose 397.90 points, or 2.49 percent, to 16,376.62. The broader Topix index of all shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange gained 32.45 points, or 0.26 percent, to 12,423.34.

Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. rose 69 yen to 959. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. advanced 40 yen to 1,630, and Sumitomo Bank Ltd. rose 50 yen to 1,340 on speculation Hashimoto may surprise the market as he did last December, when he announced a one-time 2-trillion-yen income tax cut.

The Nihon Keizai newspaper

STOCKS



Maof 321.63 v 1.2%

Dow Jones 8891 v 0.7%

FTSE 6555.2 v 0.64%

Nikkei 16376.62 v 2.49%

reported that the government's next set of measures to boost the economy, to be released later this month, will extend that cut but won't expand it. Yet the prime minister yesterday promised "drastic steps" if necessary to spur consumer demand.

Europe

UK's FTSE 100 ended earlier after mild profit taking ahead of the Easter break, but trade was listless with investors awaiting the outcome of the Bank of England's rate setting meeting. The FTSE 100 closed at 6555.2, down 38.8

points, or 0.64 percent.

German shares ended weaker but off their lows, weighed down by a weaker dollar and some profit-taking, dealers said. The DAX-30 index closed at 5269.46, down 87.59 points, or 1.64%. In later screen-based trade the Xetra DAX index ended at 5267.35, down 42.32 points, or 0.80%.

French shares closed down yesterday but off the day's lows as consolidation continued, with an uneasy Wall Street and weak dollar adding to the negative tone. Brokers believe the consolidation could continue ahead of Easter. The CAC-40 index closed at 3873.87, down 29.40 points, or 0.75%.

Profit-taking, position-squaring and derivatives-related selling ahead of the long Easter holiday led to a 2% drop in Swiss share prices. The Swiss market index closed at 7588.1, down 156.2 points, or 2.02%.

Italian shares fell for a second day, as retail investors sold stocks to take profits after the bounce rallied to all-time highs. The All Share Mibtel index closed at 2476.2, down 99.2 points, or 3.85%.

Leading Dutch shares ended mildly easier after key world markets drifted lower and as investors paused for breath following Tuesday's losses.

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Technology shares steadied yesterday after two sessions of heavy selling, but the Dow Jones industrial average sagged again as investors grew more defensive in the aftermath of Monday's first-time close above 9,000.

The Dow finished 65.02 points — or 0.7 percent — lower at 8,891.48 after sliding nearly 95 points earlier in the session, extending Tuesday's 76-point drop. Even with the two-day slide, the Dow is still up nearly 1,000 points, or more than 12%, in 1998.

Broad-market indicators were mixed, with the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index posting a slim gain despite a weak first-quarter report from chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices. After Tuesday's close, AMD reported a bigger-than-expected loss of nearly \$56 million. Yesterday, AMD's shares slid more than 10%.

Stocks were pressured throughout the session by the bond market, where interest rates rose sharply.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by a 4-to-3 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,291 up, 1,712 down and 509 unchanged.

Shekel appreciates to NIS 3.679

The shekel appreciated 0.29 percent against the dollar and the representative rate for the dollar was set at NIS 3.6790.

Meanwhile, the dollar fell overseas against the mark for a third day after a Bundesbank official suggested German interest rates may need to rise in months ahead.

Bundesbank council member Ernst Welteke said that while he sees no need to raise rates at present, his opinion could change this summer. Investors hoping for higher returns on mark-denominated deposits were lured to the German currency.

"The comments from Welteke sent dollar-market lower," said Ed Garston, a currency analyst at market research firm IDEA. Still, Garston said he doesn't see the dollar extending its slide, and would be "looking to pick up dollars at these levels."

The US currency fell a pfennig to 1.8315 marks from 1.8415 late Tuesday in London. It fell one yen, to 132.79 from 133.75, amid speculation Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will announce plans to cut taxes and increase spending at a planned press conference today.

The mark has risen more than one percent against the dollar this week, amid signs the German economy may be emerging from a six-year slump.

Tuesday, a jobs report showed German unemployment fell by a seasonally adjusted 2,000 in March, leaving the jobless rate unchanged at 11.5%. That followed a report Monday showing orders to German manufacturers unexpectedly rose 0.1% in February.

Still, reports Tuesday showing consumer prices fell 0.2% in

CURRENCIES

LAST	CHANGE
Dollar 3.679 v 0.2%	
Mark 1.8315 v 0.16%	
Mark 1.8315 v 0.16%	
Sterling 1.512 v 0.15%	

March, and industrial production was down 1.2% in February, reinforced perceptions German interest rates will stay on hold in the months ahead.

The dollar has fallen 1.4% against the yen since Tuesday, when Hashimoto said he was willing to take "bold" steps to spur the economy out of a prolonged slump.

Economists estimate Japan's gross domestic product shrank 0.2% in the year ended March 31, which would be its worst performance in almost a quarter century. The government won't release the GDP figures until

Yesterday, the dollar fell as low as 132.75 yen, its lowest since April 1 when it touched 132.67 yen, as concern the Bank of Japan may sell dollars in tandem with a Hashimoto announcement also weighed on the US currency.

"Traders are hesitant to bid up the dollar because Hashimoto's tax cut and Bank of Japan intervention at the same time may drive the dollar back down," said Hiroshi Sakuma, a foreign exchange manager at Barclays Bank Plc in Tokyo.

On December 17, Hashimoto

surprised the markets and called for a 2 trillion-yen income tax cut to revive the economy. The central bank sold dollars for yen at the same time, causing the dollar's biggest one-day plunge against the yen in more than two years.

Adding to the dollar's fall today were soaring Japanese stocks. The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index rose 2.49% to 16,376.62 on growing expectations for government action to boost the economy. Rallies in Japanese stocks help the yen because foreign investors need yen to purchase them.

Japan may face more pressure to help stem the yen's decline and prevent a widening of the trade surplus when finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations meet in Washington on April 15. (Bloomberg)

Platinum, palladium still boosted by shortage concern

Precious metals

Platinum and palladium continued to rise yesterday as the halt in exports from Russia since the beginning of the year threatens to create a shortage of the metal. The cost of borrowing palladium for one month rose to an annualized rate of as much as 41 percent, a sign that traders and consumers who need metal now are struggling to find lenders. Consumers, such as makers of pollution-control devices for cars, are buying metal now, rather than holding off in the hope that deliveries from Russia will cut prices.

Spot palladium rose \$7.75 to \$282 an ounce, while spot plat-

inum rose \$4.50 to \$417.50 an ounce.

Energy

Brent crude oil rose yesterday after a key industry report said US inventories have declined, which indicates increasing demand. The American Petroleum Institute report showed declines in inventories of crude oil, gasoline and distillates in the week ending April 3.

Benchmark Brent blend crude oil futures for May delivery rose as much as 18 cents to \$13.36 a barrel, after dropping 19 cents Tuesday to its lowest close since March 20. It last traded 2 cents higher at \$13.70 a barrel.

COMMODITIES

LAST	CHANGE
Gold \$308.45 v 1.05%	
Crude Oil \$13.36 v 0.01%	
CRB 225.77 v 0.41%	

Others

Coffee rose amid concern about lean supplies. Growers in Vietnam, Asia's second-largest coffee grow-

er after Indonesia, are currently withholding beans from the market due to expectations that coffee prices will rise further in London this year. The price of robusta coffee sold by farmers in Dak Lak province, the country's principal coffee producing region, reached 21,600 Vietnamese dong per kilogram (about \$1,665 a ton), the highest this season.

Coffee for May delivery, the contract closest to expiration, rose as much as \$49, or 2.6 percent, to \$1,899 a ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Lead prices fell as stockpiles of the metal surged 20%, the biggest one-day rise in more than a decade, indicating a possible

attempt to manipulate prices. London Metal Exchange-registered stockpiles of lead rose Tuesday by 17,950 metric tons — equal to almost 1% of world mine output — to 107,250 tons, erasing most of a drop in supplies this year. Lead for three-month delivery fell \$3 to \$581 a metric ton on the LME.

Copper rose as stockpiles of the metal fell. Copper stockpiles monitored by the London Metal Exchange fell 3,375 metric tons to 333,425 tons and are now at their lowest since the end of last year, as demand for cars and other products containing copper grows. Much of the drop is attributed to rising consumption of the metal in Europe and the US. (Bloomberg)

US bonds little changed before Korea sale

BONDS

LAST	CHANGE
US 30-year T-bill yield	5.84 no change

Protection Securities, or Tips — bonds designed to protect investors from rising inflation by paying a market-determined yield plus the inflation rate. Five- and 10-year Tips were sold for the first time last year.

"Supply is the story today," said Matthew Alexy, chief bond strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston. Some traders expect lackluster demand at the Tips sale because inflation has slowed and isn't seen as a threat. The consumer price index rose just 1.4% in the 12 months ended February, the smallest rise since 1986.

In the when-issued market, where securities are traded before they are sold, the 30-year Tips yield rose to 3.75% from about 3.65% last week.

"I don't see any signs to give us confidence this (auction) will go well," said Mike Ryan, a government bond strategist at PaineWebber Inc. "We still don't see a large constituency for these securities."

Bond yields traded between 5.79% and 6.02% for the past month as investors awaited more

clues to whether US growth is slowing, keeping inflation from accelerating.

"Until we can see the effect of Asia's slowdown, Treasuries will trade in a narrow range," said Hiroshi Matsuo, a portfolio manager who oversees 15 billion yen (\$112 million) in foreign bonds at Nikko Securities Investment Trust & Management Co. Matsuo's strategy is to buy at a 30-year yield of 6% and sell at 5.8%.

Investors today will take a look at March's producer price report, expected to show prices paid to farmers and factories dropped 0.1% last month, matching the previous month's decline, according to analysts surveyed by Bloomberg Business News. (Bloomberg)

JERUSALEM

Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from B'nai B'rith Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call (02) 588-2819.

HADASSAH: Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. (02) 641-8333, (02) 677-8271.

TEL AVIV

MUSEUMS
TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Dani Karavan, Homage to Walter Benjamin, Yehoshua Shoshman, Great Moments, 150 works. Surrealism, Prints from the Charles and Evelyn Kramer Collection.

HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Contemporary Greek Art: Three Generations. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. (03) 691-9155.

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MUSEUMS
TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Dani Karavan, Homage to Walter Benjamin, Yehoshua Shoshman, Great Moments, 150 works. Surrealism, Prints from the Charles and Evelyn Kramer Collection.

HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Contemporary Greek Art: Three Generations. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. (03) 691-9155.

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SPORTS

in brief

Blatter, Johansson sole FIFA candidates

ZURICH (Reuters) — UEFA president Lennart Johansson and FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter were confirmed as the sole candidates for the FIFA presidency yesterday after no last minute contenders came forward before Tuesday's midnight deadline.

The election to select the successor to outgoing Joao Havelange, who has held the post for 24 years, will take place on June 8 at the 51st FIFA Congress in Paris — two days before the World Cup kicks off.

A two-thirds majority of votes will be required to win the election in the first round. If neither candidate obtains the necessary votes the winner will be decided by an absolute majority in the second round.

Ex-Liverpool hero Smith recovers from car crash

LONDON (Reuters) — Tommy Smith, the hard man defender whose header won Liverpool their first European Cup, is recovering in hospital after a car crash.

The 33-year-old was in intensive care at Ormskirk and District General Hospital, near Liverpool, suffering from chest injuries, broken ribs and a fractured collar bone sustained in the motorway accident on Monday.

A hospital spokesman described Smith's condition as "stable" and said he was progressing very well and in good spirits.

He has requested a television to enable him to watch Liverpool's premier league match against champions Manchester United tomorrow.

Stoke's Kamara quits after 14 games

LONDON (Reuters) — Chris Kamara resigned as manager of English first division Stoke City yesterday after just 14 games in charge.

Kamara took over from Chic Bates in January but Stoke have won only once since, falling from 15th to bottom.

Stoke have appointed assistant manager Alan Durban as caretaker boss for the remaining five games of the season.

Counties chase richest prize

LONDON (Reuters) — The richest prize in English domestic cricket of £100,000 will be awarded to the winners of this season's county championship.

Sponsors Britannia Assurance have raised the first prize by £30,000 compared with last year, part of their increases announced yesterday.

Runners-up will get £45,000 as against £32,000 in 1997. Third place wins £22,000 and fourth spot earns £15,000.

Additionally, the winner of each championship match will receive £2,000, increased from £1,000 last year.

The total 1998 prize fund for England's first-class competition is estimated at £342,000 compared with £249,000 paid out last year.

EASTERN CONFERENCE							WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division							Central Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
a-New Jersey	46	21	9	101	208	149	a-Dallas	44	21	11	99	223	161
a-Philadelphia	39	25	11	89	220	177	a-Detroit	42	20	15	99	235	161
a-Washington	39	28	11	84	204	191	a-S.L. Louis	41	27	8	90	230	121
a-N.Y. Islanders	27	38	10	64	197	289	a-Phoenix	31	33	12	74	208	202
a-N.Y. Rangers	23	44	13	59	188	247	a-Chicago	30	35	12	72	185	183
a-Florida	23	44	12	58	185	249	a-Vancouver	27	41	9	63	179	202
a-Tampa Bay	17	50	9	43	144	244							
							Pacific Division						
							a-Colorado	37	25	10	81	218	171
							a-Los Angeles	35	30	11	81	213	205
							a-San Jose	32	32	8	72	196	206
							a-Edmonton	31	36	10	72	195	201
							a-Calgary	25	37	16	64	200	221
							a-Vancouver	24	40	12	54	184	224
							a-Anaheim	24	40	12	60	187	221
							a-clashed playoff berth						
Northwest Division													
a-Pittsburgh	37	23	17	91	210	177							
a-San Jose	37	23	17	85	224	188							
a-Edmonton	36	24	18	85	202	170							
a-Calgary	32	27	21	82	192	180							
a-Carolina	30	32	14	74	177	188							
a-Carolina	32	35	12	72	186	196							

Tiger Woods keeps others guessing



FOCUS OF ATTENTION — Tiger Woods drives off the seventh tee during yesterday's practice round on the immaculate Augusta National course, scene of the Masters which begins today. (Reuters)

AUGUSTA, Ga. (Reuters) — Year Two of the Tiger Era at Augusta National commences today with most everyone more than a little curious about whether there will be a Sunday worth worrying about at the Masters.

Last year, Sunday held no suspense other than how low would Woods go and by what margin would he become the Masters' youngest winner and first man of color to reign as champion.

"My opinion, by the nature of his game, is if he plays just normal I think he'll probably win the golf tournament," said the great Jack Nicklaus, the tournament's only six-time winner, who will be playing in his 40th successive Masters.

"If he plays poorly, I think he'll still be in contention."

"If he plays well, I think he'll run away with the tournament." The green-jacketed members of Augusta National Golf Club showed just restraint by not resorting to "Tiger-proofing" course-alteration tricks to keep the long-hitting Woods in check.

The usual bit of tinkering around the course took place, but the powers inside the stately white clubhouse heeded Tom Watson's plea to leave the track the way it is so Woods's feats could be compared to others in the past.

Now it is up to the 22-year-old Woods to show whether last year's

12-stroke romp to victory was a dream run, or the beginning of an annual nightmare for other Masters hopefuls.

"I think Tiger just had an unbelievable week last year making everything, putting very well, hitting the ball very well," said twice US Open champion Ernie Els of South Africa. "He just had a dream week."

Briton Colin Montgomerie is not so sure.

"Well, I think we're all hoping it's just once (in a lifetime)," said Montgomerie, Europe's leading money winner for five years running and desperate to claim his first major.

"I think we'll look at that name for the next 10 years here to see what he can do, and what he is doing. It's the one name everyone is looking at on Thursday," Montgomerie saw Woods work his magic up close on

Sunday last year after the Briton claimed his edge in experience would allow him to take charge against his youthful playing partner despite trailing by three shots going into the third round.

Woods fired a 65 — the day's low round — and blasted Montgomerie, who struggled to a 74, out of contention.

Tom Kite was runner-up last year, but 12 strokes off the lead does not

swell any top player's chest with pride.

"I know that was an outstanding performance and anybody that had that once in a lifetime would be very excited with that type of performance," Kite said.

Woods flopped in the season's other major championships, tying for 19th place at the US Open, finishing joint 24th at the British Open and tied for 29th at the PGA Championship.

But Augusta should be the cure for whatever ails Woods on the grand slam stage, according to Nicklaus.

"The difference is his normal game on this course, because of the length, the elevation that he hits the ball, the fabulous short game that he's got," said Nicklaus, 58. "All of it just blends to this course."

The smooth-swinging Els, whose second US Open win last June made him more determined than ever to win the Masters, said he and Woods were among some 30 really good young players that could break out this week — putting Briton Lee Westwood among a group that includes Justin Leonard, David Duval and Phil Mickelson.

The veteran set, of course, cannot be overlooked as three-time champion Nick Faldo, two-time winner Bernhard Langer 1994 champion Jose Maria Olazabal, Mark O'Meara, Nick Price, Watson and Kite all bear watching.

Red Wings down Blues; Canadiens nip Rangers

DETROIT (AP) — Kris Draper's tie-breaking goal with 2:06 left gave Detroit a 5-3 win over the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday night and moved the Red Wings back into a tie for the Western Conference lead.

The Red Wings extended their winning streak to four while snapping the Blues' five-game winning streak.

Draper snapped a 3-3 tie, beating St. Louis goalie Grant Fuhr to finish off a pretty three-man break with Larry Murphy and Yzerman at 17:54. Yzerman's empty-net goal clinched the win with 1:13 left.

Canadiens 3, Rangers 2
In New York, Scott Thornton and Patrice

Brisebois scored 27 seconds apart in the second period to lead the Montreal Canadiens over the New York Rangers.

The Canadiens began the night in a fierce battle for playoff position in the Eastern Conference. They were tied with Boston and Buffalo for fifth, three points behind fourth-place Washington.

Brisebois followed with his ninth at 11:22 when his point shot deflected off Wayne Gretzky's skate past Richter. Mark Recchi converted his own rebound on a power play at 18:24 for his 32nd and a 3-1 Montreal lead. Gretzky and Adam Graves scored for New York.

Coyotes 2, Penguins 1
In Pittsburgh, Rick Tocchet knocked in a centering pass from Cliff Ronning at 15:19 of the third period to lead the Phoenix Coyotes over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The loss dropped the slumping Northeast Division-leading Penguins to 1-4-2 in their last seven games.

Maple Leafs 3, Panthers 1

In Miami, Mats Sundin scored his 31st goal as the Toronto Maple Leafs kept their slim post-season hopes alive with a victory over the Florida Panthers.

Sundin continued his hot pace, scoring his second goal in as many nights. Sundin, who

leads the Maple Leafs in scoring with 69 points, has three goals and seven points in his last six games.

Sharks 6, Flames 0

In San Jose, California, Mike Vernon and Kelly Hrudey teamed up for a 16-save shutout as the San Jose Sharks beat the Calgary Flames and kept right in the middle of the playoff race in the Western Conference.

Calgary remained 10th, eight points shy of the final playoff spot.

San Jose broke open Tuesday night's game with a three-goal flurry early in the second period on shots by Mike Ricci, John MacLean and Ron Suter.

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מכירת מכוניות

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Mendi Rodan leads the Israel Symphony Orchestra in Bizet's *Symphony in C*, Debussy's *Petite Suite* and Faure's *Pavane* while pianist Avram Reichert joins to play the Saint-Saens second piano concerto tonight, Saturday and Sunday in Beersheba and April 14 at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem (8:30, except Saturday at 9).

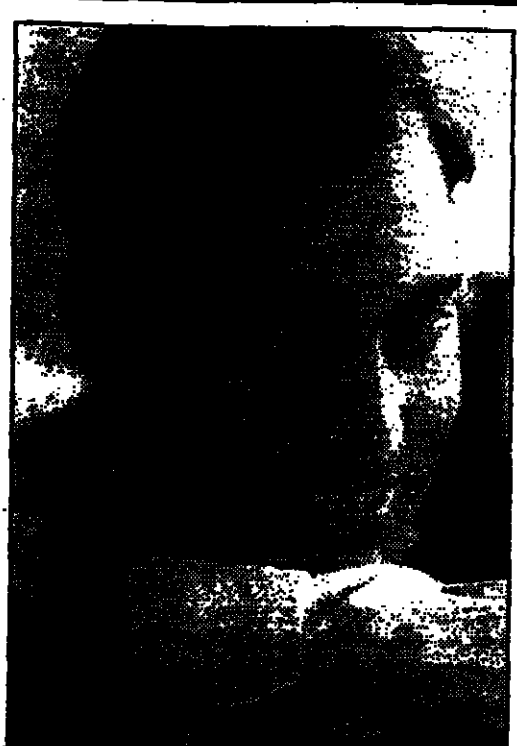
Sigvard Clava leads the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra in Haydn's *Die Schöpfung* (*The Creation*) with the Chorus of Radio Latvia from Riga and soloists. Saturday in kibbutz Kinneret, Monday in Ein Hahoreh, next Tuesday in Nazareth (8:30, except Nazareth concert at 7) with further dates in other kibbutzim.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** FLUBBER — In this remake of Disney's 1961 hit *The Absent-Minded Professor*, Robin Williams plays a soft-spoken mad scientist who creates a vat of fantastical bright green goo with the power to send objects flying through space at phenomenal speeds. The movie functions as a fine diversion for little kids. It's like an extended toy commercial, with dozens of variations on the same shock repeated, and the "characters" — who look, when solid, something like a mischievous blob of animate lime jello — able to transfigure instantly and assume any number of funny forms. Whether or not *Flubber* works as a movie in a larger sense is another matter altogether and one that is probably beside the point: kids respond to all that giddy motion and to the rather irresistible idea that this one little ball of fluorescent gunk contains enough zooting energy to wreak complete havoc on its surroundings. (General audiences.)

*** MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL — Based on John Bennett's "non-fiction" novel about a sensational Savannah



Avram Reichert plays Saint-Saens's second piano concerto.

Georgia, murder trial, Clint Eastwood's latest directorial effort is unusually relaxed in its rhythms and sharp in its attention to atmospheric detail. And though several of these strengths threaten to become weaknesses as the movie goes on (at a meandering two and a half hours, the film feels indulgent), *Midnight* stands up for the most part as a satisfying entertainment. Much of the wry pleasure here comes from Kevin Spacey who plays a wealthy antiques dealer accused of killing his street-buster lover (Jude Law) and carries himself throughout with the weary graciousness and natty frock coats of a Confederate general. Also with John Cusack, Allison Eastwood (Clint's daughter) and Lady Chablis, a delightful drag queen and real-life Savannah personality. (Not recommended for children.)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News Flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Animation
9:55 Eric's World
10:30 Fairy Tale Theater
11:15 Glad Reaps
11:40 King's Road
12:15 Moby
12:45 Animation
14:30 Running the Halls
15:00 Escape from Jupiter

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:00 Zap 1 and Super
15:30 X Man
16:00 Byler Grove
16:30 Happy Holiday
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 Click and Zap
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Meeting Point
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News Flash
19:31 Local pop
19:33 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:05 Soccer Cup Final
20:10 News
20:15 The Day After Tomorrow
20:20 News
20:25 The Day After Tomorrow
20:30 News
20:35 The Day After Tomorrow

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Cave Kids
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:35 Morning News
6:40 Rikva Michal
6:55 Scooby Doo
7:00 Le Gendarme de Saint Tropez
7:05 Gertie and the Captain
7:30 Boogie's Dream
7:35 Home and Away
7:40 Coloured Risk
7:45 Sesame Street
7:50 Dumb and Dumber
7:55 Major Dad
8:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
8:05 Different Driving
8:10 Five with Rachel
8:15 Open Cards
8:20 Forces of Nature
8:25 Jenny
8:30 Spin City
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Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisIsrael
youth
outclassed
by Spain

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

A few thousand fans turned up at Ashdod's stadium yesterday morning only to see Israel's chances of advancing to the finals of the European under-18 championships suffer a heavy setback when they lost 2-0 to Spain.

In a four-minute lapse of concentration late in the first half, Israel conceded two goals to the young, class, high-flying Spaniards.

Israel went confident after their surprise win over the Netherlands earlier in the qualifying competition. They began solidly, but for most of the second period they were pinned back in their own half, drained of strength to resist the impressive Spaniards.

Israel had a fine passage of play early on when they threatened to take the lead, yet the visitors always seemed to have another couple of gears to move up into. Israel were becoming increasingly frustrated by their failure to break down the visitors' defense. Even when they did manage to penetrate Spain's back line they came up against Elia, the defiant goalkeeper.

Israel should certainly have taken the lead in the first half with a counter attack that ripped Spain's defense wide open, but Yossi Benayoun wasted a superb opportunity after breaking clear into the Spanish box. He put too little pace on his final effort which was met by Elia, who produced a wonderful save which was then cleared off the line by a defender.

In the 40th minute Spain took the lead when Gerard, trying his luck from distance, deflected when his shot looped up off the shoulder of Tal Chen and flew past the wrong-footed Kobi Shalo in goal.

Four minutes later, Spain made it 2-0 when Gerard scored his second goal. It was set up by Celta Vigo's Pablo, who was brilliant in the central striking role.

In other news yesterday, the national team, preparing to take on Argentina in a friendly next week, beat the under-21 side 3-2 in a practice game at Ramat Gan. Tal Banin will not be available to play in the match at Teddy Stadium due to injury.

Maccabi TA battles Galil in State Cup final tonight

By BRIAN FREEMAN

For those who love to see Maccabi Tel Aviv lose in local basketball, the State Cup has become just the right type of tournament.

While Maccabi has won 27 of the last 28 league championships, it has managed to capture only one of the last six State Cup titles.

At the same time that Tel Aviv has recovered from its loss of the league title in 1993 to restore the old hegemony with 25 consecutive playoff wins and four straight league championships since then, Maccabi has been unable to transfer that magic touch to State Cup competition.

Tonight, Maccabi battles Hapoel Galil Elyon looking for its first cup since 1994, which is also the last season in which it won the double.

Galil, which lost in the final to Maccabi in both 1987 and 1990, is looking for its third State Cup in the past 11 years after winning it all in 1988 and 1992.

Davis Cup draw being held today

By HEATHER CHAIT

Israel's next opponents in the Davis Cup will be determined today when the draw takes place in London for the qualifying round for the World Group.

Israel beat Austria 4-1 at the weekend in the Euro-African Zone Group I to advance to the playoff round which will be played from September 25-27.

Israel will be drawn to play one of the following teams: Australia, Great Britain, France, Slovakia, Russia, the Netherlands, South Africa, Brazil or the Czech Republic.

If Israel is drawn against Great

Chicago hurts Wizard's playoff hopes

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 30 points and Dennis Rodman had 20 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls won their 13th straight game Tuesday night, beating Washington 103-85 and damaging the Wizards' playoff chances.

The loss dropped the Wizards (38-38) 1 1/2 games behind New Jersey for the eighth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Chris Webber and Juwan Howard, the subjects of a sexual-assault investigation in Montgomery County, Maryland, led the Wizards with 25 and 16 points, respectively.

Wizards point guard and NBA assists leader Rod Strickland strained his left quadriceps late in the first half while driving to the basket and then played only two minutes in the third quarter.

Timberwolves 92, Heat 89
In Minneapolis, Alonzo Mourning scored 28 points in his return from a fractured cheekbone, but Kevin Garnett had 27 to lead Minnesota over Miami.

Wearing a clear facemask bordered by blue padding to protect the injury that kept him out of the last two games, Mourning didn't back away from contact during a physical game.

He had nine rebounds and went to the line for 16 free throws, but the Heat were unable to improve upon the East's best road record as they dropped into a tie in the standings with Indiana, their likely second-round playoff opponent.

Garnett added 14 rebounds and Stephen Marbury had 18 points and matched a season-high with 16 assists as the Wolves improved to 40-36, matching last season's franchise record for victories.

Pacers 82, Cavaliers 80
In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller broke a tie on a 22-foot (6-meter) jumper with 8.8 seconds left, and Indiana beat Cleveland in a game in which Shawn Kemp was knocked unconscious.

Kemp was taken off on a stretcher late in the second quarter after being inadvertently elbowed in the chin by Derrick McKey.

Kemp returned for the start of the second half.

Indiana's victory wasn't assured until Carl Thomas missed a wide-open shot at the buzzer.

Antonio Davis had 19 points and 15 rebounds as Indiana won its 53rd game of the season — the franchise's most victories since entering the NBA.

Trail Blazers 99, Mavericks 91

Cleveland 19, 21, 22, 18-80

Indiana 19, 21, 22, 18-80

LA Clippers 19, 21, 22, 18-80

LA Lakers 19, 21, 22, 18-80

LA Kings 19, 21, 22, 18-80

LA Sparks 19, 21, 22, 18-80

LA 49ers 19, 21, 22, 18-80

LA 89ers 19, 21, 22, 18-80

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In Dallas, Isiah Rider scored 19 of his 26 points in the first half and Portland overcame Shawn Bradley's triple-double to complete a four-game season sweep of Dallas.

Walt Williams, Rasheed Wallace and Brian Grant all had 17 points for the Trail Blazers, who have won six of their last eight. Rookie Kelvin Cato had career-highs of 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who acquired him from the Mavericks in a draft-trade.

Bradley finished with 22 points, 22 rebounds and 13 blocks for his sixth career triple-double and his first since Feb. 6, 1997. Michael Finley's 24 points paced the Mavericks, losers of four in a row and six of seven.

Bucks 114, Raptors 105
In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 17 of his 28 points in the first half as rejuvenated Milwaukee took control early to defeat Toronto.

The Bucks won for the fourth time in five games while the Raptors ended a four-game road trip by losing their 10th straight game, the longest current skid in the NBA.

Playing without Glenn Robinson (knee) for the 17th straight game, the Bucks got a season-high 24 points, 10 rebounds and eight blocked shots from Ervin Johnson, and 20 points from reserve Jerold Honeycutt.

Doug Christie had 20 points, Gary Trent 18, John Wallace 17 and Dee Brown 16 for the Raptors, who played without Marcus Camby (neck) for the second straight game.

Hawks 92, Knicks 79

In Atlanta, Steve Smith returned from a four-game absence to score 24 points and Dikembe Mutombo had a season-high 19 rebounds, 17 points and six blocks to lead Atlanta over New York.

Alan Henderson added 20 points and Mookie Blaylock had 17 for the Hawks, who clinched a playoff spot and moved within two games of Charlotte for the fourth playoff seed and home court advantage in the first round.

Allan Houston scored 24 points and Larry Johnson 20 for the reeling Knicks, who have lost five of six. New York, currently seventh in the East, has a one-game lead over eighth-place New Jersey and a 2 1/2-game lead over Orlando and Washington.

Rockets 104, Nuggets 87

In Denver, Clyde Drexler moved past Patrick Ewing to 17th place on the NBA's career scoring list as the Houston Rockets avoided their longest losing streak in two years.

Drexler scored 20 points, increasing his career total to 22,085 — six more than Ewing. Hakeem Olajuwon had 18 points and 14 rebounds as the Rockets snapped a six-game losing streak.

The Rockets kept Denver at bay all game long by hitting clutch 3-pointers. Houston finished 12-of-25 from behind the arc.

Cory Alexander had 19 points, a

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Chicago forward Dickey Simpkins dunks over Washington's calbert Cheaney on Wednesday. (Reuters)

with a win over Denver.

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career-high 11 rebounds and eight assists for the Nuggets (9-97).

Jazz 101, Warriors 99

In Oakland, California, Karl Malone scored 56 points, the most in the NBA this season, including a running jumper with 2.2 seconds remaining to give Utah the victory.

Malone scored 25 of his points in the third quarter, including a one-handed fling from 30 feet (nine meters) as the period ended, and

added 12 points in the fourth as Utah won its fourth straight game.